Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

**Do you believe federalization will bring prosperity to the CNMI?**

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## PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of November 30, 2009

**Phase 6:** The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

*Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization*

## INSIDE

**Seesaw**

Investors may have to do some emotional juggling as the trading week begins.

BUSINESS...Page 15

**Zac Returns**

It isn't those astonishingly blue eyes that stick in the memory, nor the fact that he earnestly uses the word "neat" in casual conversation.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

### DHS URGES WORKERS, EMPLOYERS:

# 'Apply for H, L, other work visas now'

## Visas may be used to enter NMI after transition period

**'WELCOME TO SAIPAN'** HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) marvels at a giant signage at the Saipan International Airport, welcoming tourists to the white sand beaches of the CNMI. Torres was among the CNMI government officials who witnessed the federal takeover of immigration checks at the airport in the early morning of Nov. 28.

**ON THE NET**

- www.uscis.gov

**RELATED NEWS**

- USCIS to hold immigration training on Dec. 4-12. PAGE 7
- Nearly 100 comments, mostly from workers, on DHS rule. PAGE 5

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Now that the CNMI is under federal immigration control, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is urging foreign workers and employers to start applying for a nonimmigrant work classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act such as an H visa for professional workers or an L visa for inter-company transfers that also allow them to freely exit and re-entered the islands.

Hartman

*See APPLY on Page 4*

# Man seriously hurt after being hit by a car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 35-year-old man was seriously injured when a car hit him as he was crossing Beach Road in Susupe Saturday night.

The victim, a Chinese, sustained a fractured right leg, abrasions on the right side of his face, and lacerations on the right side of the head. He was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care Unit.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong withheld the name of

*See MAN on Page 4*

# Arroyo to run for RP Congress in 2010

In this July 27, 2009, file photo Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo raises her hands during her last State of the Nation Address at the House of Representatives in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines. AP

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP) — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Monday she will run for Congress next year, opting to stay a political player after her tumultuous term ends.

Arroyo is barred by the con-

*See ARROYO on Page 4*

# Herman's Modern Bakery burglarized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Unidentified person or persons burglarized the Herman's Modern Bakery on Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road in As Perdido and stole a safe containing docu-

*See HERMAN'S on Page 4*

2 awarded $6K for wrongful terminations. **PAGE 2**
Air Saipan owner denies allegations of 'fake' deals. **PAGE 3**

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Local

# 2 awarded $6K for wrongful terminations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ordered Palms Resort Saipan to pay a total of $6,143 to two former hotel employees who were found to have been wrongfully terminated and discharged from service.

Labor hearing officer Herbert Soll, in a decision issued Nov. 17, gave Micronesian Resort Inc., which does business as Palms Resort, up until Dec. 4 to pay Eugene de Leon $2,052 and Michael Lim $4,091 after both were improperly discharged from employment.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that De Leon was employed as a staff at the hotel's housekeeping department and had been working for the company for nearly 20 years.

In January this year, De Leon had a disagreement with his general manager about the unavailability of clean rooms at the hotel. De Leon said the lack of overtime available to the housekeeping staff was the main reason for this.

Palms Resort has more than 300 rooms and the unavailability of clean rooms resulted in a considerable loss that prompted the general manager to fire De Leon.

Although the manager's displeasure was understandable, Soll described the manager's action as "excessive."

"He [De Leon] was precipitously discharged. This was particularly unfortunate in view of his 20 years of service and the confidence placed in him as expressed in his recent renewal for a two-year term," Soll said in his decision.

Palms Resort had inked a two-year contract with De Leon in November 2008.

The hotel's housekeeping function was outsourced to a private contractor in April 2009. Palms Resort notified the Labor Department of this and received approval for the termination of De Leon's contract.

However, Soll said that De Leon's employment should have run until April 22, 2009, resulting in total earnings of $2,052.

For Michael Lim, who has been a bartender for 10 years, Labor ruled that he be awarded $4,091.

Like De Leon, Lim was approved a two-year contract in September 2008. Four months later, in January this year, he was given a termination letter, citing changes in the Food and Beverage Department. Palms Resort informed Labor that a resident had been hired to take over the bartender's position.

"On its face this reason was invalid," Soll's decision stated, saying the employer has no right or obligation to terminate a contract merely because of the later existence of a resident worker.

After terminating Lim, Palms Resort then claimed that he was terminated because he stole money and was not obeying rules and procedures of the company.

However, Soll said that proof of these accusations offered at the hearing was circumstantial and did not meet any standard of proof that may have been applied.

Labor ruled that the discharge of Lim was improper and Palms Resort breached its contract.

Both De Leon and Lim were granted an opportunity to transfer to other employers.

Palms Resort was represented in court by Michael Dotts while Stephen Woodruff represented the complainants.

# Ex-convict arrested for alleged knife attack on spouse's parents

An ex-convict was arrested yesterday for allegedly attacking the parents of his spouse with a knife at their residence in As Lito Saturday night.

Melvin Nakatsukasa Basa, 37, was arrested and taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed no bail.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that on Saturday at 8:55pm, they received a call about a disturbance at a residence in As Lito.

Aldan said investigation showed that after a drinking session at a relative's house, Basa had an argument with his spouse. The spouse asked her mother to fetch her. The mother arrived and picked her up.

Later, as the mother was sitting in front of her residence, Basa arrived aboard a car, followed by a sports utility vehicle driven by one Jerome Ada.

Basa told his spouse's mother not to interfere and he tried to enter the house to look for his spouse.

The suspect went to his car and grabbed a big knife and walked toward the mother.

The mother's husband, Ben, saw Basa allegedly try to stab the mother. He pushed away the suspect. As the two struggled, both fell to the floor. Ben tried to hold Basa's right hand to avoid being stabbed.

Ben managed to free himself and enter the house. Basa allegedly started stabbing the house's door with the knife.

Basa then ran to the window, damaged the screen, and tried to force himself into the window. Ben kept pushing the suspect out of the window.

Basa and Ada later fled on their vehicles.

The mother called 911, but it allegedly took several calls before she was answered. That night, police failed to arrest the defendant.

In February 2000, the federal court sentenced Basa to 102 months in prison for robbery. In May 2008, the federal court sentenced him to seven months in jail for violating his probation.

In August 2008, the Office of the Attorney General charged Basa with domestic violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
What can I do to be hospitable and
Live the Hafa Adai and Tirow Way?
Greet a visitor with a smile and a warm "hafa adai"!
Stop for a pedestrian at a crosswalk!
Share my island culture with a visitor!
Offer help when I see a visitor in need!
Invite a visitor to join my community or family activity!
Support tourism today and
Live the Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!
Answer to Nov. 17 Tourism Trivia: In fiscal year 2009, how many visitors did the island of Rota receive? About 11, 000.
Congratulations to our winner Frances Keremius!
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

# Air Saipan owner denies allegations of 'fake' deals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
MONETH_DEPOSA@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

The president and founder of a company that is planning to put up an airline business in the CNMI was allegedly engaged in fraudulent deals in various countries, according to a Web site.

Dean Mills, president and founder of New Era Group Asia LLC, was accused by http://deanmillsconman.com as a con man wanted in many countries for fraud involving fake business deals, fake companies, and grand deception. A check with the Web site's page info showed that it does not supply identity information.

Mills denied being convicted of any case.

"All of any matters outstanding will be cleared in time," he said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Mills described the information as "rumors" that are being spread by people who don't understand business.

Mills

"Many of these rumors were sent by people who don't understand that business sometimes doesn't work despite the best efforts of those concerned. Sometimes it is better to close a business…than to run at a deficit," he added.

He challenged the people behind the Web site to present evidence of these allegations.

"Is there any evidence of these reports such as proof of warrants and other comments?" he asked, adding it is his company's intention to create a viable business on Saipan.

"We are taking step by step to get things in order before making our announcement of how this service will work," he said, adding that before they come to the island they need to have everything in place.

"We do not want to rush and fail again," he said.

Mills recently disclosed plans to open a new airline in the CNMI that aims to employ about 60 individuals on the islands who will begin training in January next year. Air Saipan first tried to set up and operate an airline based out of Saipan in 2006. However, plans were pushed back due to rising fuel prices, difficulties with aircraft maintenance problems, and undercapitalization.

This time around, Mills said, they have substantial capital and substantial backers, especially in the Chinese outbound market, to realize the project. He claims the company has $10 million capital so far, which will increase up to $20 million prior to its launch.

Initially, he said, Air Saipan flights will be chartered and will operate out of Guangzhou and Shanghai and a possible Cairns flight in 2011. Lufthansa Consulting recently signed memorandum with Air Saipan to help it get the project off the ground.

# Filling public classrooms with HQT's remains a big challenge

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System's primary schools' representative, Charlotte Camacho, admitted yesterday that filling all classrooms with highly qualified teachers remains a challenge for all 12 elementary schools on three islands.

At present, PSS records indicate that there are still 164 teachers—or 29 percent of the teacher population—who have yet to be classified as HQT. They either lack a degree, valid certification, or have yet to pass the Praxis, a test that measures either basic academic skills or subject-specific knowledge and teaching skills.

At present, PSS has an estimated 516 classroom teachers.

Camacho said a large number of the non-HQT's are in the elementary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"That's one of the major challenges: making sure that we can hire HQTs in all classes," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that this problem was also a result of lack of needed funds to recruit qualified personnel.

Camacho, who was elected by fellow elementary school administrators to become its representative this school year, disclosed that they are working closely with the commissioner's leadership team in addressing this challenge.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that non-HQT's may not be hired next year following the PSS leadership's recommendation to fill all classes next school year with highly qualified teachers.

PSS has until July 2011 to meet the federal mandate of filling all its classrooms with HQT personnel. To comply with this federal mandate, the Board of Education adopted its three requirements to be classified as HQT: a degree, valid certification, and passing the Praxis tests.

Since PSS adopted the Praxis series of tests, student test scores on the SAT-10 have almost doubled in the past four years.

Saipan Tribune learned that non-highly qualified teachers were given one-year contracts this school year on the condition that they will show good faith effort to meet the requirements. It was learned that many of the non-HQT's lack the Praxis requirement.

Camacho confirmed this plan, expressing optimism that all teachers will be in compliance with all the requirements in the next few months. Currently, 71 percent of PSS teachers are highly qualified. Last school year, about 20 HQT's resigned from the system, resulting in more vacancies for HQTs.

"This is the last school year that we will hire non-HQT's. So we're concerned because we would need to replace our non-HQT's by next school year," she said.

PSS has been bringing in experts and conducting institutes to help teachers become highly qualified.

A compensation plan was also adopted to encourage them to pursue and comply with the requirements. For teacher beginners who have yet to pass any Praxis, the salary schedule provides $28,000 in annual pay. The maximum pay is $47,000 per annum, depending on the individual's credentials.

Besides the challenge on HQT, Camacho said that schools are also working on achieving the PSS goals of getting all students reading at their grade levels.

# Labor Ombudsman assists over 10 workers file lawsuits against Labor

In the last two weeks, the Federal Ombudsman's Office has assisted over 10 alien workers file separate lawsuits against the CNMI Department of Labor.

The lawsuits noted that the Federal Ombudsman helped in preparing the alien workers' petitions for judicial review.

The petitioners—Filipinos and Chinese—named the Labor Secretary as defendant.

The petitioners have various previous jobs as domestic helpers, garment workers, farmers, mechanics, commercial cleaners, tofu makers, and kitchen helpers.

The petitioners asked the Superior Court to set aside the Labor Secretary's orders that denied their request for an extension period to transfer to new employers and urged it to allow them to transfer to new employers.

The petitioners are Gloria M. Vino, Wuqi Chen, Honorio G. Cambronero, Josephine R. Tengson, Hilda B. Advincula, Dongfan Liu, Delia Elino Tancinco, Xiaoli Lu, Quanmin Feng, Yanyu Wu, Fuyun Zang, Caiyun Mu, and Nely A. Soriben.

On Nov. 12, 2009, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that all alien workers who have pending labor cases in court are eligible to obtain the two-year transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits."

Wiseman issued the ruling as a result of a consensus reached between the CNMI Department of Labor, the Labor Administrative Hearing Office, the Attorney General's Office, and counsel for Zheng Hua Chang and co-complainants as well as other counsel for alien workers who have pending labor cases in court.

Last Oct. 26, Labor began the distribution of "umbrella permits." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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# *Sequoia* returns home after Pacific patrol

**APRA HARBOR, Guam**—Just before midnight, Nov. 3, the U.S. Coast Guard buoy tender *Sequoia* and its crew of 51 returned to home port in Apra Harbor, Guam, after a successful two-and-a-half month deployment.

The *Sequoia*'s deployment encompassed rigorous training in defense readiness, improved maritime safety and security in the Pacific, assisted scientific research and included search and rescue support.

"In my short time aboard, I'm really happy to have participated in such missions knowing that I directly contributed to search and rescue, aids to navigation, scientific research and military readiness," said Ensign Andrew Haley, the newest member of the crew.

The crew of the 225-foot buoy tender left Guam Aug. 17, to transit more than 8,000 miles to complete a "Tailored Ship Training Availability," or TSTA, in Honolulu; established an aid to navigation at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands; located an adrift National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration buoy near Wake Island; and, responded to a maritime distress signal northwest of Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshalls.

The deployment to Honolulu for shipboard training and evaluation required more than eight months of preparation to ready the crew for damage control and seamanship exercises. Every crew member was trained to respond to emergency scenarios ranging from fire and flooding to toxic gas leaks and terrorist attacks. The *Sequoia*'s crew earned excellence awards in navigation, seamanship, weapons, damage control and medical proficiencies.

After departing Honolulu, the crew headed to Kwajalein Atoll to replace a destroyed aid to navigation that marked shoal water on the critical Roi-Namur Highway Channel. Kwajalein Atoll is used by the U.S. Army as an advanced missile development and test site. The aid was destroyed by a vessel that strayed out of the channel. The Roi-Namur Highway is used as a key marine shipping channel for Army transport ships and features many coral heads just below the surface of the water. The *Sequoia* crew established a new buoy clearly marking the channel for the safety of ship traffic.

In a joint effort with NOAA, the *Sequoia* crew located and recovered a NOAA buoy that drifted more than 2,000 miles from its original position 200 miles southeast of Hawaii's Big Island. The buoy has been adrift for more than a year and was located east of Wake island.

NOAA uses these buoys and attached electronics to collect vital information about ocean currents and marine weather. While 12 to 15 foot seas prevented the safe recovery of this buoy, an on board NOAA representative was able to evaluate the condition of the buoy and provide real-time information to NOAA. ***(USCG)***

## ARROYO

*From Page 1*

stitution from seeking a second term. She said she'll step down following national elections in May.

Some critics said she might try to use the new perch — a seat in the lower house that she is sure to snag — to retain significant power by seeking high posts or even working toward the creation of a prime ministership.

Arroyo's lawyers have refused to speculate on her plans beyond running for the second congressional district in her home province of Pampanga, where her family and supporters dominate. She is the first Philippines president to run for the House of Representatives.

The president will travel to Pampanga on Tuesday to speak to supporters, after which a representative will file her candidacy papers, said lawyer Romulo Macalintal.

"I realized I am not ready to step down completely from public service," said Arroyo, the 62-year-old U.S.-trained economist and a daughter of a former president. "As you know, people from my province of Pampanga have asked me to stay in public service, so after much soul-searching, I have decided to respond affirmatively to their call."

After succeeding President Joseph Estrada, who was toppled by massive anti-corruption protests in 2001, Arroyo went on to win her own six-year term in 2004 amid allegations of fraud.

She subsequently survived four impeachment bids initiated by the opposition in Congress, and four power grabs by disenchanted troops who blamed her for corruption and misrule.

Opinion polls have consistently found her to be the least popular president since late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986.

Most recently, she fended off criticism of her political alliance with a powerful southern clan accused in the massacre of 57 people, nearly half of them journalists, in the country's south.

One critic, Randy David, a sociology professor at the University of the Philippines who briefly thought of running against Arroyo, said she might use her congressional seat to work to amend the constitution from the current U.S.-style to a parliamentary system under which she could eventually be installed prime minister.

Arroyo told the radio interview "that situation is so hypothetical, I won't even bother to speculate about it."

Arroyo has been working for several years to make those changes to the constitution, but has routinely been sidetracked by crises that left her struggling for her political survival.

Estrada was among opposition presidential candidates who filed their nominations Monday.

The presidential race is shaping up as a contest among the son of the late president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino, Benigno "Nonoy" Aquino III; fellow senator Manuel Villar, a wealthy real estate developer; and administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro, a former defense chief.

## MAN

*From Page 1*

the driver, a 25-year-old local female.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that alcohol was not a factor, but speed has not been ruled out.

"The investigation on this case is ongoing," Tarkong said.

He said that DPS emergency personnel were sent to the site on Saturday at 9:10pm, along Beach Road by the intersection to the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Preliminary investigation showed that the victim was crossing the highway without using the crosswalk from Dollar Days toward the Saipan Grand Hotel.

A blue 1996 Mitsubishi sedan, which was driven by the 25-year-old woman, was traveling south on the inside southbound lane. The car struck the pedestrian as he was crossing the road.

Medics transported the victim to CHC.

The driver of the car had three passengers—two 14-year-old boys and an 11-year-old boy. The driver and her passengers were not injured.

Tarkong said the car sustained moderate damage to its front bumper, grill, hood, and left corner of its rooftop.

## HERMAN'S

*From Page 1*

ments and $2,500 cash over the weekend.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday that police officers were sent to Herman's Bakery on Sunday at 4:58am after DPS received a report about a burglary and theft incident.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that the burglary was discovered when one of the employees arrived for work at 4:30am.

The male employee discovered that a padlock on the side entrance was missing and found it in broken pieces on the floor.

Police were then contacted. Officers saw that the suspect or suspects' possible point of entry was through a restroom window.

The safe that contained documents and an estimated $2,500 cash was gone. It was described as a U.S. Navy style metal safe, which opens with a key.

"The dimensions of the safe are about two and a half feet tall by one and a half feet wide. It's heavy and may weigh between 200 to 300 lbs," Tarkong said.

Tarkong said the investigation is ongoing.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering a reward of up to $1,000 cash to anyone who has information about this case that will lead to an arrest.

## APPLY

*From Page 1*

Alexander Hartman, immigration policy adviser at the DHS Office of Policy Development, said being granted a nonimmigrant worker authorization is another option for foreign workers to be able to re-enter the CNMI, besides parole and advance parole.

"Besides advance parole, there are also all the other immigration categories under the Immigration and Nationality Act. So with U.S. immigration law coming to the CNMI, all these different categories that exist on the mainland now also exist here," he said.

Only a few of the classifications under the INA allow foreign workers to apply directly, without an employer.

"That's something we really want to encourage people. If they're eligible or they think they're eligible for one of the nonimmigrant categories—H, or L, or P, or O—they should go ahead and start that process because that's something that will exist beyond the transition period and will give them a way to stay here and travel," Hartman said.

A federal judge temporarily stopped DHS from implementing its transitional worker program rule that would have allowed foreign workers to re-enter the CNMI if they secure a CW-1 visa from a U.S. embassy.

A CW-1 visa, however, can only be used during the transition period ending Dec. 31, 2014.

Hartman said DHS has yet to decide whether to come up with emergency regulations to allow foreign workers to travel in and out of the CNMI as Judge Paul Friedman suggested on Nov. 25, or to issue a new set of rules for the transitional worker program.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Visitors Authority board member Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) watch the official takeover of federal immigration authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Saturday, Nov. 28.

"The decision only affects the transitional worker regulations. It won't go into effect as we planned. So that means no one here can be admitted as a transitional worker but really, we don't expect that to have much impact at the airport because people who are eligible for transitional workers visa primarily would already be in the CNMI," he added.

Although U.S. immigration law applies to the CNMI beginning Nov. 28, the CNMI undergoes a transition period with temporary measures ending Dec. 31, 2014.

This allows for an orderly transition and gives individuals time to identify an appropriate visa classification under the INA.

### Nonimmigrant worker classification

USCIS listed several nonimmigrant temporary worker and visitor for business classifications on its Web site, www.uscis.gov.

They include H-1B for workers in specialty occupations like architecture, engineering, medicine and accounting; H-2A for temporary or seasonal agricultural workers; O-1 for persons with extraordinary ability in science, business, education or athletics; P-3 for artists or entertainers, either an individual or group, to perform, teach, or coach under a program that is culturally unique; and R-1 for religious workers.

There is also the L-1A for intracompany transfer in a managerial or executive position, and L-1B for intracompany transfer in a position using specialized knowledge.

Since Nov. 28, CNMI immigration has come under federal control pursuant to Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Because U.S. immigration laws now apply in the CNMI, foreigners need to have a U.S. visa to enter the islands, except for nationals of countries who are part of national visa waiver programs or the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, along with Chinese and Russian tourists who may be paroled into the islands.

Nonresident workers with U.S. travel visas (B1/B2) can only enter the CNMI as tourists but not as workers.

Right now, nonresident workers cannot re-enter the CNMI if they exit for emergency or other reasons, using only their valid CNMI work/entry permit.

"DHS will be looking very carefully at the individual applications for authorization to travel, which is called advance parole. Those applications will be handled by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service," Hartman said.

### Public outreach

DHS is working to put together more guidelines about how to deal with the exit and re-entry of foreign workers.

DHS and its component agencies will be holding a series of public outreach programs, news briefings, and facility tours to discuss the implementation of federal immigration laws in the CNMI and to familiarize the public with these changes.

The department will hold training sessions from Dec. 4 to 12 ***(See related story on Page 7)***. DHS officials have also been meeting with different worker and employer groups to brief them about federal immigration laws and answer questions they may have.

At 9am today, representatives from DHS, USCIS, Customs and Border Protection, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement will participate in a media availability at the TSL Plaza in Garapan to discuss the implementation of federal immigration laws in the CNMI, which became effective at 12:01am local time on Nov. 28.

This will be followed by an invitational tour of the ICE office at the Marina Heights II Building.

Also at noon today, David Gulick, the district director of USCIS, will be the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Tomorrow, Gulick will also be speaking to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

# Nearly 100 comments, mostly from workers, on DHS rule

## Chamber insists on CNMI-only H-2 visa

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 95 individuals, mostly nonresident workers, submitted comments on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's interim final rule on the CNMI transitional worker program, which was originally set for implementation on Nov. 28 but was postponed due to a federal court ruling.

There are at least 142 postings about the received comments on the Federal Register Web site, but many of them are just duplicates.

DHS published the interim final rule in the Oct. 27 Federal Register and comments were due on Nov. 27.

But two days before the end of the comment period, Judge Paul Friedman issued a ruling temporarily stopping DHS from implementing the transitional worker interim final rule because no ample public comment period was given.

DHS has yet to decide whether to issue emergency regulations as Friedman suggested, or come up with a new set of regulations and start the comment process from scratch.

Some submitted handwritten comments, which were scanned and posted on the federal Web site, including that of a nonresident worker who has been in the CNMI for 21 years and asks for "improved status."

Another handwritten comment was submitted by Rosemarie Ann Liangco, a U.S. citizen child of foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for 18 years.

"I believe that with my parents' existing permits, they will be able to go to their home place but yet they may not enter the island again. This situation worries me," said the child.

She also said that all contract workers should be given a CW-1 status if the federal government wants to have zero contract workers by the end of 2014.

Many of the foreign workers asked DHS to automatically convert all valid CNMI work/entry permits to CW-1 visa.

One of them, Christopher M. Monsanto, said any additional or duplication of fees that businesses have to pay for the same purpose of retaining their workforce would further hurt their ailing businesses amid an unstable economy.

"CW1 visa should be packaged into the issuance of CW1, CW2 permits to give nonimmigrant workers and their dependents the freedom to exit and re-enter the CNMI without unnecessary delay and uncertainty on re-admittance," he said.

Still, a lot more who commented pressed for improved immigration status such as "green card" to long-time foreign workers in the CNMI.

### CNMI-only H-2 visa

Among those who submitted comments on DHS' interim final rule was Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James "Jim" T. Arenovski, who offered alternative solutions to structure the mandated reduction in CNMI-only transitional workers.

The Chamber has repeatedly suggested what it believes to be a potential solution to this issue that it deems would be "effective and efficient and, we believe address the concerns and needs of both the federal government and the Commonwealth."

"Our proposal is for a federally-administered CNMI-only H-2 visa program exempt from the numerical limitations applied in the United States," Arenovski said.

In his seven-page comment, Arenovski said such a program would be otherwise largely identical to the existing federal H-2 visa program, but would "not" allow egress from the CNMI to Guam or other areas of the United States.

"This could achieve, almost immediately, the stated congressional intent of an orderly phasing out of the nonresident contract worker program and the orderly phasing in of federal responsibilities over immigration in the Commonwealth, and minimizing, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse and fiscal effects of phasing out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth," he said.

He added that this would be entirely practical from a security standpoint, given the easy control of exit and entry at the CNMI's six air and sea ports.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with approximately 150 members.

It said DHS' interim final rule establishing the CNMI-only transitional worker classification, as published, "will cause significant economic harm to the [CNMI]."

### First comment

A certain Maria Isabel D. Estanislao was the first one to comment or pose a question on DHS' interim final rule, on Oct. 29.

Arenovski

She asked about the "umbrella permit" that the CNMI Department of Labor was about to distribute at the time. She asked whether such permit will be recognized, honored, or will be valid when the U.S. immigration law applies to the CNMI, or whether the CW-1 and CW-2 visas will supersede all existing permits.

On Nov. 25, a federal judge temporarily stopped DHS from implementing its transitional worker program rule that would have grant a CW status to eligible nonresident workers, because comments were not considered before the publication of the rule

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, through his special legal counsel Howard P. Willens, also submitted a comment, saying that DHS should not implement the interim rule as it is "deficient for many reasons."

Willens said the rule fails to implement the statutory requirement that the DHS secretary establish and enforce a transitional work permit system in the CNMI that provides for allocation and a reduction in the number of foreign workers to zero by Dec. 31, 2014.

He also said DHS failed to conduct an economic impact analysis of the proposed regulations, as required by Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980.

Willens said DHS has an obligation under the Administrative Procedure Act to review all the comments submitted in the rulemaking proceeding and amend its proposed regulations so that they comply with the requirements of Public Law 110-229, or the federalization law, and will not cause the serious injury to the CNMI.

Among other things, nonresident workers can exit the CNMI any time during the transition period from Nov. 28, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014, but they cannot re-enter the islands using their valid CNMI entry permit, based on DHS' interim final rule.

A "transitional worker" under PL 110-229 is defined as an alien worker who is currently ineligible for another classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

The Transitional Worker Visa category is a new nonimmigrant visa classification under INA using the admission code CW-1 for the principal transitional worker and CW-2 for dependents. "CW" stands for "Commonwealth transitional worker."

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# Senate urges Congress, USDA to cut fees for NMI farmers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate adopted a joint resolution urging the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help farmers in the CNMI and the western Pacific by reducing or waiving the service fees for crop assistance program.

A law passed in June 2008, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, raised the service fees for the Non-insured Crop Assistance Program.

Under the amendment, service fees increased from $100 to $250 per crop per country, and rose from $300 to $750 per producer per county, with the maximum total fee per producer increasing from $900 to $1,875.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, author of Senate Joint Resolution 16-14, said the large fee increase has created a hardship for farmers in the CNMI and western Pacific region who are unable to compete with large agricultural producers in other areas and cannot afford higher premiums.

"A consequence of the fee increase has been the withdrawal of many CNMI and western Pacific farmers from the program," Reyes said.

The resolution urges the U.S. Congress to amend Section 7333(k)(1) to reduce the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program service fees "for disadvantaged farmers in the CNMI and Guam to their level prior to the Public Law 110-246 amendments."

In the alternative, the resolution asks the U.S. Agriculture secretary to define CNMI and Guam farmers as "limited resource farmers" under 7 USC 7333(k)(2) so that they may be eligible for a waiver of service fees under the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program."

The Senate adopted the resolution during its Nov. 19 session.

# Paskong Pinoy in Hard Rock set

Hard Rock Café Saipan will celebrate Christmas in Dec. 25 with a unique Filipino twist with its "Paskong Pinoy" event.

The rock n' roll-themed restaurant's operation manager Reynaldo Perez said there will be fun and exciting entertainment and a Christmas Filipino buffet for everyone to enjoy.

Perez

The event will be held from 6pm to 8pm on Christmas day.

"We would like to invite the Filipino community, other nationalities, locals, as well as tourists in to join us in celebrating 'Paskong Pinoy.' This will be a big family event especially for kids, " he said.

Perez added that aside from entertainment and food, Hard Rock Café Saipan will also be organizing a caroling and singing contest during the "Paskong Pinoy" event.

Entrance for the "Paskong Pinoy" Filipino-themed Christmas party at Hard Rock Café Saipan is free. Those who want to partake of the buffet will only have to pay $15.

For more information and reservations, call Perez at 233-ROCK (7625) or e-mail him at reynaldo@hardrocksaipan.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

The third to fifth grade winners pose for a souvenir picture.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Green Meadow shines in PGFC

Green Meadow School did it again at the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held at Kagman High School on Nov. 14, 2009.

GMS excelled in both K-2 and 3rd-5th Divisions, accumulating 36 honors in different competition categories.

School administration expressed sincere appreciation for the parents' support and for serving as judges, to teachers for their untiring efforts in guiding the competing students during the preparation and on competition day, and to all competing students for bringing honor to their family and school.

**K-2 DIVISION (K-3-2ND GRADE)**

**Choral Speaking B**
3rd Place: Jody Coloma
Joshua Alfred
Rayven Daca
Morgiana Alepuyo
Naveen Lucinara
5th Place: Alyson Red Camacho
Princess Casey Melchor
Taliyah Bocago
Nicole Sune

The K-2 Division winners.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Desiree Maratas

**Dramatic Interpretation-A**
3d Place-Raphael Christian Galang
4th Place-Aldraine Angelo Galang
5th Place-Jill Anne Marie Mallari

**Dramatic Interpretation-B**
4th Place-Joshua Alfred
5th Place-Dustin Ross Salilin

**Humorous Interpretation-A**
2nd Place-Mikee Mame Mendoza

**Humorous Interpretation-B**
2nd Place-Kristine Jane Crisostomo
4th Place-Isaiah Miguel Mallari

**Impromptu-A**
5th Place-Dustin Ross Salilin

**Impromptu-B**
5th Place-Radge Palma

**Duo-A**
3rd Place-Kristine Jane Crisostomo & Mikee Mame Mendoza
4th Place-Morgiana Alepuyo & Rayven Daca

**Duo-B**
4th Place-Chelsea Garcia & Henin Zhea Pamintuan
5th Place-Angel Mae Oropesa & Natalie Hirsbein

**Readers Forum-B**
1st Place-Aldraine Galang

**Readers Forum-C**
1st Place-Alexandra Belle Dalusung

**3RD - 5TH DIVISION**

**Choral Speaking-A**
2nd Place-Ezekiel Alfred
Amelito Dalusong Jr.
Keandre Phillip Deseo
Joshua Cristian Saturno

3rd Place- Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
Ryan Louis Divino
Franchesca Del Pilar
Anniea Sofia Saturno

**Choral Speaking-B**
2nd Place-Andrea Monique Agtarap
Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
Gelomener Narciso
Robin Reyes
Tianna Villagomez

3rd Place-Ma. Fatima Briones
Danielle Coloma
Ma. Theresa Dalusong
Angela Reganit

4th Place-Mary Grace Briones
Chekaina Coloma
Monica Aira Usi

**Humorous Interpretation-A**
4th Place-Angel Sean Legaspi

**Impromptu-A**
4th Place-Keandre Deseo
5th Place-Danielle Coloma

**Duo-A**
2nd Place-Andrea Monique Agtarap & Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
3rd Place-Piolo Gregorio & Zamuel Alfred

**Duo-B**
2nd Place-Ezekiel Alfred & Monica Aira Usi

**Readers Forum-A**
3rd Place-Tianna Thalia Villagomez
5th Place-Piolo Gregorio

**Readers Forum-B**
2nd Place-Franchesca Del Pilar
5th Place-Angel Sean Legaspi

**Readers Forum-D**
4th Place-Zamuel Alfred

**Readers Forum-E**
3rd Place-Justin Palabay
4th Place-Mary Grace Briones

**Coaches:**
K-3 - Ms. Moody Binuya
K-4 - Mrs. Joy L. Chapap
K-5 - Mrs. Sony Natividad
1st Grade – Mrs Leonor Marfil
2nd Grade – Mrs. Marlyn Divino
3rd Grade – Mrs. Eleonor Alejo
4th Grade – Mr. Manuel Castro
5th Grade – Mr. Cenon Ayuman

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-DOF-013A & 10-DOF-013B**

**SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 23, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"CNMI GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPLICATION SOFTWARE UPGRADE PROJECT"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OFFICE IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO finance.edp@cnmiarra.net NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009

**THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.**

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
**ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE**

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
**DIRECTOR, P&S**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

**Head Start Policy Council**
**Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on December 7, 2009 (Monday) from 11:00am-3:00pm, Rota Campus, Northern Marianas College.

I. **Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of November 13, 2009 minutes

II. **Public Comments**

III. **Communications**
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. **Monthly Reports**
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
   a. Personnel
   b. Education
   c. Executive
   d. Finance
   e. Public Relations

V. **Old Business**
1. Confirmation of Community Representatives

VI. **New Business**
1. Approval to Revise Policy 8050
2. Approval of Ongoing Monitoring Policy

VII. **Executive Session**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

*Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.*

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3751.

/s/ Mr. Gene Weaver
Chairperson

MINA
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

**Invitation to Bid**

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) is inviting bids by qualified Video Firms to create two (2) 30 sec PSAs about the harm posed by Marine Debris for our local television stations. We would like to model these PSAs from existing PSAs linked to the NOAA Marine Debris Website.

Prospective bidders should request and review the Scope of Work for this project by contacting Kathy Yuknavage, Marine Debris Prevention Project Manger at Kathy@minapacific.org

**Bids should be submitted via email no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 12th, 2009.** MINA's right to reject any or all bids is reserved.

# USCIS to hold immigration training on Dec. 4-12

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

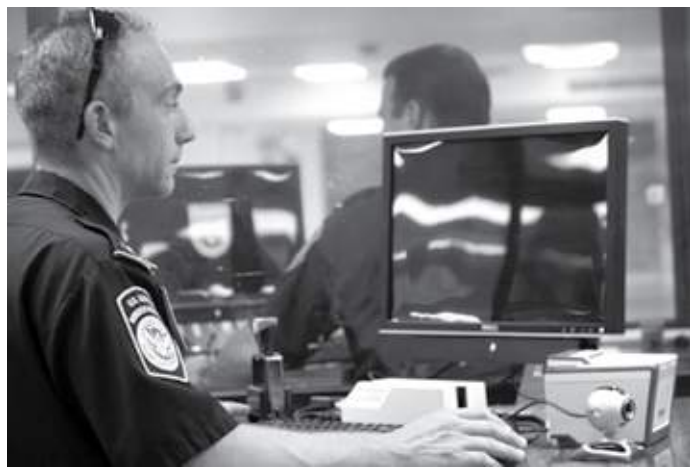
The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the Department of Homeland Security will be holding training sessions from Dec. 4 to 12 in the CNMI to provide an overview of general federal immigration law and the use of Form I-9 for employment eligibility verification.

All training, to be held on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, is free and open to all members of the public.

Each meeting will last about two hours.

Marie Therese Sebrechts, regional media manager for USCIS, said the first hour of each training session will provide an overview of general U.S. immigration benefits and the second hour will cover the employer requirements, specifically the use of the I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification.

Alexander Y. Hartman, immigration policy advisor at DHS's Office of Policy Development, said the department has also been meeting with different employers, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority, among other entities, to explain to them immigration policy changes and requirements.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer James Collett, from New York, prepares for the processing of passengers at the Saipan International Airport at past 1am on Saturday, an hour after the federal government officially took over CNMI immigration.

Effective last Saturday, the CNMI came under federal immigration control pursuant to Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Seven USCIS training sessions will be held on Saipan *(See sidebar for schedule.)*.

## Forum

In addition to the training sessions set by USCIS, the United Workers Movement-NMI is also sponsoring a forum for leaders of different religious, worker and ethnic groups in an effort to get answers to questions concerning USCIS' CNMI Transitional Worker Program Regulations and U.S. immigration law.

The forum will be held at Fiesta Filipino by Juvy Restaurant in Susupe across the Saipan Grand Hotel on Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 6pm to 8pm.

In a statement yesterday, the workers' group said DHS and USCIS officials will give an overview of immigration law, the immigrant and nonimmigrant categories, and transitional rules.

"They will answer questions and provide information for an orderly transition from the CNMI permit system to the U.S. federal immigration system under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The United Workers Movement-NMI urged those interested in joining the forum to call 285- 3306, 287-0191 or 285-9255 for more information and to reserve a seat.

### USCIS TRAINING SESSIONS

**SAIPAN**

| Date | Time | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| **Dec. 4** | 9am | American Memorial Park |
| | 5pm | American Memorial Park |
| **Dec. 5** | 10am | American Memorial Park |
| | 3pm | American Memorial Park |
| **Dec. 6** | 10am | American Memorial Park |
| **Dec. 7** | 9am | American Memorial Park |
| | 5pm | American Memorial Park |

**ROTA & TINIAN**
**For workers – immigration law overview:**

| Date | Time | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| **Dec. 8 and 9** | 5pm | Rota Round House |
| **Dec. 11 & 12** | 5pm | Tinian Dynasty Hotel ballroom |
| **For employers – I-9 overview** | | |
| Dec. 9 & 10 | 9am | Rota Round House |

## EMO warns of dangerous rip currents

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches due to dangerous rip currents that could be life threatening.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, a trade wind surge east of the Marianas has produced large swells that have now reached the region, resulting in high surf that is expected to continue through at least early Sunday morning.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 3pm today.

"Expect hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet along north and west facing exposures that should gradually subside but will remain hazardous until at least Tuesday afternoon," said EMO.

The public is urged to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially along southwestern clockwise through northwestern exposures and along east and south facing reefs. ***(EMO)***

# Arts Council to open its Christmas exhibit with more artists, displays

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will open its monthlong Island Artists and Christmas Craft Exhibit on Monday with more artists and displays this year.

Arts Council coordinator Lucille T. Ayuyu said yesterday the season's showcase will run from Dec. 7 through Dec. 31 in time for the holiday season.

The Council was busy yesterday preparing its gallery on Capital Hill, which will be the venue of the event.

Last year, over 20 artists joined the exhibit.

Ayuyu is optimistic the council will have a greater number of participants this year due to the free registration, which is open to all island artists, regardless of age.

Spectators and visitors will also be treated to special craft demonstrations by the artists themselves.

The council is expecting schools to visit the gallery throughout the month.

Ayuyu said the exhibit aims to help local artists display and promote their artwork and find suitable markets for their products.

The CCAC will not be charging the artists anything and all proceeds will go to the artists themselves.

Every year, over a hundred items—from crafts to visual to sculpture—are showcased in the gallery.

Every year, the arts council sponsors three major exhibits: a women's exhibit in March, Pacifica arts and cultural exhibit in September, and the Island Artist and Christmas Craft Exhibit in December.

# NMC tourism students visit Marianas Trekking

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC tourism students pose with Marianas Trekking staff. Back, from left, Tiger Lee, Samylyn Atalig, Motoman, Joy Rankin, Vince Asanuma, Larry Lee, and Sheila Palacios. Seated from left, Kento Togawa, Patty Matagolai, and Nick Swain.

Northern Marianas College students taking up Introduction to Travel and Tourism 101 recently visited the Marianas Trekking headquarters at the Marianas Resort in Marpi to learn about the company's various tour offerings, activities, and operations.

Marianas Trekking manager Vince Asanuma enlightened the students with a lively video and slide show presentation on the company's mountain biking, hiking, snorkeling, and ATV tours, including the special Eco Camp sessions held every summer and winter vacation.

The students also toured the Mandi Asian Spa at the Marianas Resort, led by Marianas Trekking staff member Tiger Lee.

According to NMC instructor Larry Lee, "this type of hands-on field trip experience really broadens our students' perspectives, especially as they learned so much about ecotourism, and the qualities and attitude necessary to succeed in the tourism/hospitality field." ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

**NOTICE ON BOND CLAIMS**
**2009 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS**

**November 30, 2009, first notice**
**December 1, 2009, second notice**

**COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:**

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in an administrative order or settlement in **2009** in a labor case or a consolidated agency case who has not been paid in full on that claim should register with the Labor Department. Please come to the Complaint Intake Section, **Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 11:30 am,** and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your work permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has **until December 30, 2009** to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

After your claim is filed, the Department will determine if it is covered by a bond. Not all awards in labor cases or consolidated agency cases are covered by bonds. Some awards are only partially covered because the terms of most labor bonds are limited to three months' wages and a set amount for medical expenses or repatriation tickets. The terms of labor bonds assume that foreign workers will file their claims promptly and will not let wage claims of more than three months accumulate. Some awards are not covered by a labor bond at all because the employment was illegal and the employer never supplied a bond. However, all unpaid settlements or awards from the Hearing Office should be registered, and the Department will process all registered claims.

All claims with respect to unpaid wages and settlements **from 2008 and prior years** are now being heard and will be completed by the end of the year. When the Labor Department has exhausted its administrative remedies with respect to a claim, if any amount is still owing the claim is forwarded to the Attorney General's office for action in the courts if practicable. The notice from the Labor Department referring a claim to the Attorney General is posted on the Department's website, www.marianaslabor.com.

If you have questions about registering a bond claim, please call Renita Camacho, who is in charge of the Complaint Intake Office, at: 236-0958/7/6.

# MarianasLiving.com donates to NMC club

The Northern Marianas College's Student Nursing Club recently received a donation to assist with the purchasing of supplies and materials that the club uses in its Community Health Awareness events, where its members conduct free blood pressure and blood sugar checks.

Co-owner Nathan Benson of MarianasLiving.com, a realty and consulting firm, made the donation earlier this month and presented it to Club president Miles Rodriguez and vice-president Kwon Sohn.

"I'd like to thank Mr. Benson for his generous donation," said Rodriguez. "The contribution will help us obtain ample supplies and materials necessary to carrying out our goals of promoting health awareness in the community."

The NMC Nursing Club has been providing the communities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with free blood pressure, blood sugar, and diabetes screenings for the past several years. The club welcomes any form of support from the community to increase and enhance its various volunteer activities

NMC

NMC Nursing Club President Miles Rodriguez, left, and Vice-President Kwon Sohn, right, receive a check from MarianasLiving.com co-owner Nathan Benson, center.

"The college is extremely thankful for this donation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "I applaud Mr. Benson for recognizing our students' service to the CNMI community."

Some other community events at which the NMC Nursing Club frequently conduct free health screenings include the "Lead Screening for Head Start Program," "Walk on Wednesday," the "Wise Women Village Project," and "Family Fun Day." ***(NMC)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again this Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will be available for the public to check out books. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

### Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents and tables will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

### NMI-US relation on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, former vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, on Dec. 5, 2009, Saturday, between 9:30am and 10:15am, on Magic 100.3 FM. Santos who will be discussing key issues of the Covenant, the implication of the federal lawsuit that the CNMI lost in federal court, and the chances of renegotiating the relationship with United States. Simultaneous Internet broadcast via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

### Chamber to hold monthly meeting tomorrow

David Gulick, the district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, will be speaking to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its general membership meeting tomorrow, Dec. 2, 2009, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. The Chamber will also hear from Juan S. Borja, the local U.S. Census Bureau manager about the 2010 CNMI census as well as an upcoming Census Bureau job fair in the CNMI.

Wednesday's meeting occurs on the day of the Chamber's 2009 Student Career Exploration Day. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(PR)***

### John Gonzales LIVE schedule

■ Dec. 2, 2009 LIVE (Replays on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8), from 7pm to 8 pm. Topic: H1N1 Flu School Vaccination Campaign

■ Dec. 9, 2009 LIVE (Replays on Dec. 14 and 15), from 7pm to 8pm. Topic: Inspiration and Success from 2009 PSS Education Day Winners

Text 285-META (6382), call 287-4230, or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for your questions or comments. ***(PR)***

### Motorists cautioned about cyclists

PIC would like to notify to all motorists on the morning of Dec. 5 to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capital Hill where the bikers will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all. ***(PR)***

### Korean language classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center's Korean Language School is providing free Korean language classes at the Northern Marianas College as a program of CDI from Nov. 27 to Dec. 18. The school also seeks comments and advice from the public for the next session. The new session will be a basic Korean language program. Don't hesitate and send your free opinion and answers to the following questions. (1) What time is the best time for you to join NMC's Korean language program? (2) What day do you think is good? (3) What content do you want to learn in Korean language? Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

### NMC workshop on livestock healthcare and management postponed

The Northern Marianas College's Workshop on Alternative Herbal Medicine for Livestock Healthcare in the Western Pacific, which was scheduled for Nov. 24-25, 2009, has been postponed. A new date, time, and venue will be announced within the next few weeks. For more information, contact the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service at 234-5498 ext. 1708. ***(NMC)***

### December attractions lined up for the Paseo

PDM Promoters Inc., in collaboration with the First Lady's Vision Foundation, Women's Affairs Office, and Office of the Governor will kick off a monthlong series of activities at the Paseo de Marianas with a Christmas tree decorating contest on Dec. 2 using recycled materials. The competition will involve 15 schools on island; cash prizes await the winning school teams. Entries will be judged according to holiday theme, attractiveness, creativity and design, and durability of the display.

On Dec. 3, students from Rota and Tinian will get the chance to bag $50 each for the "Third Annual My Holiday Greetings to Our Visitors" drawing contest. Second prize winners will get $30 each; $20 each for third placers; and all participating students will receive a small gift from the organizers.

A tree lighting ceremony is also scheduled on Thursday, Dec. 3, to be followed by programs and entertainment at the Garapan Street Market. Announcement of winners for the contests is scheduled on Dec. 17. ***(PR)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Dec. 1, 1998

#### Federal funds emerge for cash-starved PSS

The Public School System is recipient of a $65,000 in grant that will fund the formulation of education reforms to boost learning, and a team from the Hawaii-based Pacific Resources for Education and Learning is helping out push the project through. The project, called Comprehensive School Reform, is required to be based on models that have been proven successful. It focuses away from isolated projects and on a campus-wide campaign. Meanwhile, education officials were told yesterday that PSS may dip into education funds earmarked for some specialized programs and for what is known in the U.S. as migrant education.

#### CDA defends CUC on power rates

Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairman Juan S. Tenorio said yesterday utility rates in the CNMI are reasonable, debunking claims by the business sector that they were way too high. He said private business owners ought to realize that rates have not been adjusted for many years despite fluctuations in prices of fuel in the world markets. Tenorio said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is subsidizing at between $3 million to $4 million annually for sewer and water services. "I think the present rate is just fair. We have been accustomed to it for several years now. They must also take into consideration the fact that CUC is subsidizing costs for water and sewer. CUC is really trying its best to serve the public," Tenorio said.

### Dec. 1, 1999

#### Budget deliberation resumes

The House Ways and Means Committee resumed yesterday its deliberation on the FY 2000 budget package, more than two months after it deferred passage of the proposal due to disagreement on how to divide the shrinking cash resources of the government. The panel hopes to complete the task by middle of this month before the Legislature goes into sine die and after members iron out differences, such as the level of appropriation to be given to each department or agency. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted in April a $206 million spending level, representing a 2 percent drop from the revised budget for FY 1999.

#### Two boat officials get 18 months for alien smuggling

They just wanted to work in Guam, pay off their debts and give their families a better life in Fujian, China. But their dreams turned into a nightmare as they found themselves locked up in prison a month after they sailed to reach that Great American Dream. The U.S. District Court yesterday sentenced to 18 months imprisonment Xiao Yi Zhu, boat captain,. and Weng Zu Hui, assistant captain and engineer, of a Chinese boat that was used for attempting to smuggle in 47 undocumented Chinese nationals into Guam six months ago. Federal Court Judge Alex Munson has also ordered the immediate deportation of the two after their prison terms have been served.

### Dec. 1, 2000

#### Democrats hold primary

Democrats are appealing to more than 12,000 voters on Saipan to go out and vote in the open primary tomorrow to decide who will be the party's official candidate to the mayoralty election next year on the island. Rep. Antonio Muna Camacho and former Rep. Juan Borja Tudela are seeking its endorsement to run for Saipan mayor in the November 2001 polls. This is the first time ever that Democrats are conducting a primary ahead of an election, according to party chair, former Gov. Carlos S. Camacho. "Everybody is welcome to vote regardless of their party affiliation," he told in an interview yesterday. "We hope that people will use their right to vote. We'd like to have as many voters as possible."

#### Candidates appeal for support

The two candidates in tomorrow's primary have asked support from the people to give them the mandate to address the critical needs on Saipan. "We've been working hard," said Rep. Antonio M. Camacho in a separate interview yesterday. "People may not come out and vote because this is just a primary, but we are asking them to exercise their right." He expressed confidence of winning the two-way race, citing his platform of helping the people of Saipan as his main priority once elected into office. Among his plans are to establish precinct commissioners to provide the public easy access to the delivery of government services; to promote environmental program like island beautification; to create outreach programs for indigents; and to protect health and safety of residents.

# Island Snapshots

**NEW REGIME**

Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, right, congratulates and welcomes mayor-elect Melchor S. Mendiola, left, yesterday morning to begin formal discussion with the mayor-elect and his transitional committee members for the turnover.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Transition Team chair Elphrem Atalig, Rota mayor-elect Melchor Mendiola, Committee vice chair David Atalig, and committee adviser Fermin Atalig have their picture taken inside the Rota Mayor's Office after a meeting with incumbent mayor Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos yesterday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

Cadet Cheska Salen assists a 4th grade student at Garapan Elementary School during the Marianas High School Dolphin Battalion Service Learning Project on Nov. 19, 2009. JROTC Service Learning Projects are teaching and learning strategies that integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. The Dolphin Battalion performed several Service Learning Projects, Alpha Company at William S. Reyes Elementary School, Bravo Company at Garapan Elementary School, and Charlie Company at Oleai Elementary School. Cadets were assistant teachers during the events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## THANKSMAS DONATION

Jolene Torres, manager for MITA Travel & Western Union (Saipan), donates $300 cash and two DVD players for the Off the Beaten Path's Thanksmas event benefiting the Autism Society of the CNMI. ThanksMas will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009. For tickets, send an e-mail to obpcnmi@gmail.com or call 285-7677. Receiving the donation is Reina Camacho, OBP member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CADET CHALLENGE COMPETITION

The 1st Annual Multiple School Unit JROTC Cadet Challenge was hosted by the Saipan Southern Manta Ray Battalion at the Marianas High School campus on Oct. 31. The Dolphin Battalion emerged victorious, placing first, while Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School placed second and third respectively. The three participating high school JROTC battalions engaged in a series of physical fitness events to include push ups, sit ups, pull ups, relay race, and the one-mile run. The instructors who supervised this event were SFC Gloria (MHS), CSM Rabago (SSHS), MSG Salas (SSHS), MSG Burke (KHS), and SFC Lukeala (KHS).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Merrick Vicente Attao Toves who is celebrating his 5th birthday today, Dec. 1. Wishing you the best on your special day! Warm greetings come from your parents, Mark and Catherine; your siblings Joseph, Markel, Theresa and Markus; and the rest of your Chalan Piao family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 18th birthday to Yuri Kimiko Romolor! We love you! Greetings come from Alana and Antonette.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to Tegan "Baslisa" Brel! May the Lord bless you today and always! Greetings come from your family and most especially your loving mom and brother Aiden "Ngiratis" Brel.

## PEPSI WINNER

Frances C. Muna wins $200 from the Pepsi Get Money 5K giveaway during the promo's weekly raffle. She is shown here being handed her prize by Mike Babauta of Pacific Trading Co.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## PUENGIN INETNON

Puengin Inetnon will be held again this Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will be available for the public to check out books. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

## The Afghan decision

President Obama is expected to announce on Tuesday a substantial escalation of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan: more training for the Afghan army, more support for Afghan governance and tens of thousands more American troops. It is a difficult choice but also the right one. While there is no guarantee that the new measures will reverse what is now a losing effort, the alternatives under consideration—from a more limited counterterrorism strategy to maintaining the current force—have been tried and have failed. While sending more Americans to war will entail a painful cost in lives, abandoning Afghanistan to civil war or rule by the Taliban would be immoral—and would endanger key American interests.

Mr. Obama's prolonged deliberations and some of his public comments have made clear that he will embark on this new course reluctantly. That is understandable, given the problems in Afghanistan and the lack of Democratic support for an expanded war. Yet once he has chosen his strategy, it's vital that the president commit himself fully to its success. That requires sending enough troops to reverse the Taliban's momentum and describing the new commitment in a way that will convince Afghans, allies, the Taliban and the leaders of neighboring Pakistan that the United States is determined to succeed. It also means avoiding hedges and conditions that could doom the escalation before it begins.

One of Mr. Obama's dilemmas this week will be the need to address multiple audiences with competing interests, from dovish House Democrats to suspicious Pakistani generals. The president has already been aiming reassurances at his domestic audience, such as his promise last week to "finish the job" in Afghanistan—and his spokesman's declaration that "we're not going to be there another eight or nine years." But the most important messages will be those received in the war zone. Experts concur that a large majority of Afghans do not wish to see a resurgence of the Taliban but that many will be inclined to support the side that they believe is most likely to prevail. Pakistan's military commanders, too, will carefully measure U.S. resolve before deciding to break irrevocably with the Afghan Taliban leaders based in their country. If the new American strategy is cluttered with "exit ramps" or closely linked to timetables, the effect of the additional troops will be undermined.

The Afghan government and President Hamid Karzai also require careful handling. Success will require better performance by Mr. Karzai, and the Western alliance will want to be creative in building up local governments and forging informal alliances with towns and tribes. But publicly disparaging Mr. Karzai or holding out the abandonment of his government as an option is likely to ensure that he clings to the warlords he should break with or seeks out other foreign sponsors. Though support for the Afghan government cannot be unbounded, a plan that counts on turning over the war to a large Afghan army won't work unless a way is found to nurture and work effectively with the political leadership in Kabul.

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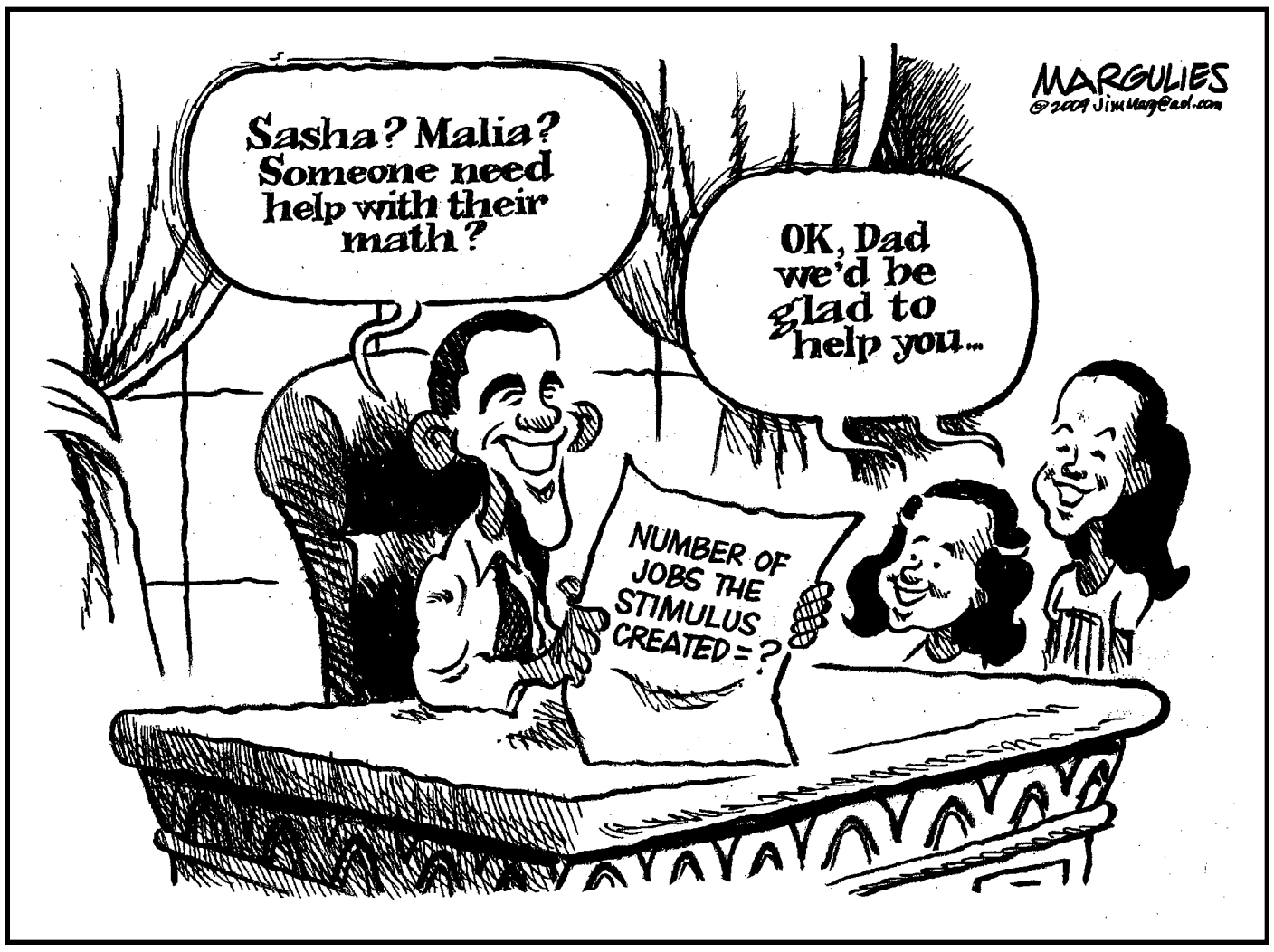
Sasha? Malia? Someone need help with their math?
OK, Dad we'd be glad to help you...
NUMBER OF JOBS THE STIMULUS CREATED =?
MARGULIES
©2009 JimMag@aol.com

## Farewell

*"Leadership is action, not position."*

*—Donald H. McGannon*

These past four years have been a daunting, humbling, and rewarding experience, to say the least. My personal decision not to seek re-election was a difficult one as I have loved these past four years of public service. I am the type of person who is motivated and thrives on a great challenge, and the CNMI is certainly facing challenging times. There is a lifetime of work yet to be addressed; it is, however, time for me to focus on my private life with my family and friends.

In the 1960's I had what was a rare opportunity: to go off-island and earn a degree. I have been blessed, because I was able to return to the CNMI and use that education both in the private and public sector, ultimately culminating in a senatorial term. It is an honor that I was able to make history being the first female senator, and I am humbled and grateful for this honor. I encourage the youth of our Commonwealth to endeavor to do the same one day as time moves us forward toward a new generation.

I congratulate all the winners of this election. I quote Henry Ford who said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." May the CNMI not only progress, but be successful in accomplishing all that needs to be done.

When Thomas Edison was asked why he had a team of 21 assistants, he replied, "If I could solve all the problems myself, I would." This quote perfectly sums one of the most important lessons I have learned from my latest journey serving on the CNMI Senate. It takes teamwork to get anything significant done. Although private individuals may be capable of accomplishing some things alone, an elected official cannot get anything done alone. That's the purpose of having representatives for each district. Elected officials must work together for any type of progress to be made.

I humbly offer a few key points of advice to those who follow me in the Commonwealth Legislature.

First, don't be hesitant to tackle the basic issues that are plaguing our Commonwealth. I believe there are realistic solutions that will stand the test of time as to all of these basic issues, and the time to get to these solutions is now. The longer we wait, the harder and more expensive for all of us the solutions will be.

Second, there are no quick solutions to difficult problems. Current and future elected officials have been and will be faced with cleaning up messes that past legislative lavishness and temporary fixes have often amplified. I have always believed that acting on a problem before it becomes a crisis is the best path. Unfortunately, some of those problems became crises during the last four years, and have demanded quick action. When it reaches this crisis point, the options for solutions are scarce and we are often left with no choice but to do the unpopular job of implementing the "lesser of two evils." The temptation to use half measures or delay tactics when dealing with issues that are not yet at the crisis level should be avoided to prevent these unfortunate and difficult outcomes.

I worked hard trying to avoid fast solutions that would only put a temporary Band Aid on a problem. I have seen very few situations where a proposed quick fix would actually be a long-term successful solution. Often we have access to reports and informational materials that, if read or studied, would make clear that the proposed legislation would have unintended consequences that will exacerbate a problem or simply delay a crisis long enough for future legislators to deal with.

Third, the Legislature cannot find successful solutions to our problems without hard work on the part of every legislator. It takes careful research, thoughtful discussions, and a certain amount of time to clearly identify, understand, and agree upon the way in which the implementation of changes can solve fundamental weaknesses in our governmental framework and infrastructure. Often what is perceived to be a problem is really only the symptom of a larger or more complex issue.

Every piece of proposed legislation must be tested against the provisions of the Covenant, the CNMI Constitution, and every existing law already on the books that has an effect upon the subject. Without this, new laws can be unconstitutional, contradictory, unenforceable, or just plain destructive to the well being of the people of the CNMI.

Please read and understand the Covenant and the Constitution. Ask questions. Read the Senate and House journals from past sessions to gain a better understanding of what took place and how issues are debated or discussed on the floor. This would also give you insight as to how an individual colleague's mind works or thinks. Review as much legislation as you can; determine if a bill is clearly warranted; and find out why a particular bill does not gain sufficient support to pass. Learn to read quickly and accurately. Prioritize your efforts. By all means, make use of the National Conference of State Legislators' website and, if possible, their conferences for the large amount of resources they possess. Many States have faced the issues we currently face and legislation that has been thoroughly researched is available as models for your use.

*See FAREWELL on Next Page*

## Notes from the Hill

**By MARIA FRICA PANGELINAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*The writer is a senator in the 16th Northern Marianas Legislature.*

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# Concluding unscientific postscript 2: CNMI economy

**By JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the* Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Barbara Wulfurt of Railings Pacific was already bedridden by the time I met her 10 years ago. Her household numbered a total of four. She and adopted son YJohn were on Saipan; husband Ray and son Mark operated the Guam office. Barbara was a mentor.

First, she got me to join the Chamber of Commerce. Immediately, I sensed that her view of a cleric's job goes beyond being on one's knees in meditation, contemplation and prayer, or ensconced in an eternal cycle of religious studies. It was not so much that she wanted to ensure I had the right perspective; it was that were I to formulate a perspective, it had better be grounded in the reality of the situation. A pedagogue of my own heart!

This was at the turn of the century; five years before the WTO free global trade policy in garments took effect. Folks against federal interference were still confident that they can stem historic trends, though Lynn Knight, who was VP for corporate affairs at Tan Holdings was already saying that it was "not a question of whether or not we leave, but of who will be last to turn the lights off when we do." There was an intense level of denial, particularly in high places, of the impending doom of a sunset industry, but the decision to fight the impersonal feds who were painted as the bad guys was made.

The Chamber of Commerce appeared to be mostly a tax-deductible charge on the members' expense account, and a great public relations effort—an occasional gabfest, with its own pecking and proprietary order a tad bit more staid than the Rotary Club. It provided the community an acceptable face behind which, as one characterized it, "its members gouged the public with its inflated price rates"; its business style primarily promoting consumer goods and services to local residents and visiting tourists (including military personnel on RR). The private sector as an engine of the local economy was perceived more as a mercenary than facilitative of affordable sustenance.

There was a proposal for a free trade zone, and having lived in the Philippines where a free trade zone flourished during the Marcos years with dubious results as to the benefits accruing to the local population, I was not too sure this was a viable and sustainable proposal in spite of it being a favorite globalization tactic of the IMF and the ADB. Free trade zones are attractive to investors because of the tax breaks and utility subsidies offered by host governments. In turn, governments can avail of development loans proffered by development banks. The CNMI offers breaks and subsidies, but the last benefit is not available because the CNMI is part of a developed country, although it acts like a Third World with a US zip code!

At the Mactan Free Trade Zone, the cost of water and electricity consumption for the factories were considerably less than what the local population paid, but get priority delivery service when there was scarcity, which was all the time. Watershed development efforts in the region, funded by international aid agencies, had outputs like water, designated first for the use of free trade zone consumers before any excess is distributed to the local population.

One can imagine why my experience and ideas were not solicited when the promise of a free trade zone was touted in Chamber deliberations. With the economic focus on consumption, the distribution end of the economic process, it begged the question as to who benefits from the consumer goods and services brought from the outside to the island? Are there local resources projected to supplant imported ones in the same way as local workers are to be trained to take over functions of contracted labor? Does the production process and instruments benefit the local population and coffers?

Saturday afternoon, a friend and I took two folding chairs to the Fisherman's Wharf at Gualo Rai to sit under the cloudy skies, watch the waves roll in as a storm still sat on the western horizon, and eat the barbecued chicken and pork purchased from the neighborhood stand. Conversation veered toward the local economy; we noted that

*See CONCLUDING on Page 13*

## Letters to the Editor

# Generation of service

With all the fanfare and hoopla on federalization and immigration enforcement by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection I can't help but wonder about our own local immigration officers who have protected our borders for 34 years.

As a police officer I have had the privilege to work and train with our own immigration officers on various law enforcement missions, including forgery and fraud investigation on passports, entry permits and visas, recovering undocumented or overstaying visitors, white collar crime, drugs and firearms smuggling, child pornography, human trafficking/smuggling, prostitution investigation and many other cases too many for me to mention.

From port of entries all over the CNMI, administrative offices, to local and federal task forces, our immigration officers were an integral part of the CNMI law enforcement community. As I try to recall the names of the immigration officers I have worked with, names such as Jose P. Mafnas, Dave Ayuyu, Mel Gray, George Camacho, Antonio Cruz, Clarence Somorang, Tony, Tom, Adrian, Frank and Ed Sablan (all cousins and uncles), Vince Lizama, Tony Borja, Pete Tegita, Ralph and John Demapan, John Peter, John Taitano, Ed Cabrera, John Rabauliman and Richard Lizama. I also recall those officers who have passed away, to include Charles P. Reyes Sr., Frank Villanueva, Tom Barcinas, June Lepwach and others that I know I have overlooked.

Even through the final minutes of federalization takeover last Saturday, countless CNMI immigration officers that we took for granted with names like Abraham, Nick, Mel, Adel, Roman, Dean, Darren, Vince, Kimberly, and Jack, to include Harry on Rota and Audie on Tinian and many other faceless CNMI Immigration officers and support staff continued to stand guard on our borders to the very end until properly relieved by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Thirty fours years of CNMI controlled immigration also means generations of Immigration Officers guarding our borders. These generations of immigration officers and staff included fathers, mothers and children, brothers and sisters, cousins, uncles, aunties, nephews and nieces, husband and wife. We also saw a diverse group of nationalities in the

*See GENERATION on Page 13*

# Neglected roads in Kagman

On behalf of the Kagman Komunidat Association, I would like to submit a report on Kagman infrastructure.

I have attached a picture of the current state of Gagu Loop in Kagman 3. There is only one way in and one way out of this part of the village. This puddle covers both sides of the street. Vehicles tend to get stuck during heavy rains. About 70 different residents use this route daily to leave and return home. This has been the state of this road for over six months.

This is on Gagu Loop. I have called the Mayor's Office four times already and the matter remains unattended. The mayor is responsible for this secondary road. I have left messages and have tried to reach George Camacho, who is the main person for the matter. Taxpayers live in Gagu Loop and are demanding that the matter gets fixed once and for all.

CIP funding should be invested in Kagman roads. All other homestead areas like Dandan and As Matuis are all paved. About one-third of Kagman roads remain unpaved, causing hardship to residents.

Many streetlights in Kagman are not working. This poses a danger for pedestrians and drivers. Residents who walk on the pathway at night are at risk of being robbed or raped. What does not make sense is that streetlights that do work remain turned on during the day. Someone has to pay for the streetlights that remain turned on during the day. Unless those streetlights are solar, taxpayers end up paying for the cost. It would be more cost-effective to turn off streetlights at 6am and turn them back on at 6pm.

**Jesse Torres**
*President, Kagman Komunidat Association*

Gagu Loop in Kagman 3 is covered by this huge puddle that covers both sides of the street. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## FAREWELL

*From Page 10*

The most important part of new or amending legislation is in the details. Everyone who votes on legislation needs to have before them a concise written explanation of the details. Legislators need to be sure their lawyers provide adequate legal and background information. Equally important, opposing points of view should be sought out and considered carefully.

Finally, public input and understanding is vital. Once an issue is identified, the research done, and the legislation drafted, the education of fellow legislators and constituents begins. This can be the most difficult part of being a legislator. It is easy to "wage a war of sound bites," particularly when an issue is solved by complex and technical legislation. Excerpts can be taken out of the context of the whole and the entire bill is not represented in a balanced manner. Certain clauses can adversely affect individuals, who raise objections, and this objection can often be perceived as sufficient to negate the greater good that implementing the entire bill can bring. A balance between public feedback and the legislative details needed to achieve a goal that improves our quality of life is what should ultimately create our laws.

I give our newspapers a great deal of credit for their patience and forbearance in publishing virtually all of what I send to them, even when it has been long, detailed, and technical in nature. This has been my avenue to try and explain the fundamental reasons for legislation I have written, supported, or opposed. My choices may not always have been popular, and certainly did not please everyone. I can say without reservation that I made decisions based on facts, and I applied those facts deciding what I believed to be in the best interest of the people of the CNMI.

Each legislator has different approaches for reaching out to his or her constituents. Websites, YouTube, and blogging, in addition to the newspapers and television are means by which communications between elected officials and the public stay on top of current issues. These are important resources that should continue to be used to reach out to the public.

In conclusion, I want to say that my Senate colleagues, President Pete Reyes and Senators Joseph Mendiola, Felix Mendiola, Paul Manglona, Paterno Hocog, Jude Hofschneider, Henry San Nicolas, and Luis Crisostimo, have my gratitude for their trust, cooperation, and support in the decision making process. Their constant efforts to build consensus, maintain mutual respect, and preserve a willingness to listen and compromise when necessary kept the Senate a united, productive, and cohesive unit.

I also extend my appreciation to the employees of the Legislative Bureau, and all the legislative staff for their kindness, support and respect extended to me.

Although my journey as a public official comes to an end at this time, I remain continuously grateful to everyone in the community, especially my supporters. Thank you for your support, and for the privilege and opportunity to serve in the Senate. Thank you also to the constant critics out there who, by doing so, are taking an active role in our political system. Critics are just as important as supporters as they are often the ones that spark public involvement. I tried my very best to serve well. It is my hope that my efforts in the Senate have made a positive impact on our collective future here in the CNMI.

*"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap."*

*—George Bernard Shaw*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 mph to 20mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼77° | ▲86° ▼77° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼77° |

## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Cloudy | ▲90 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Kosrae | Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲85 | ▼79 |

## Around The Globe

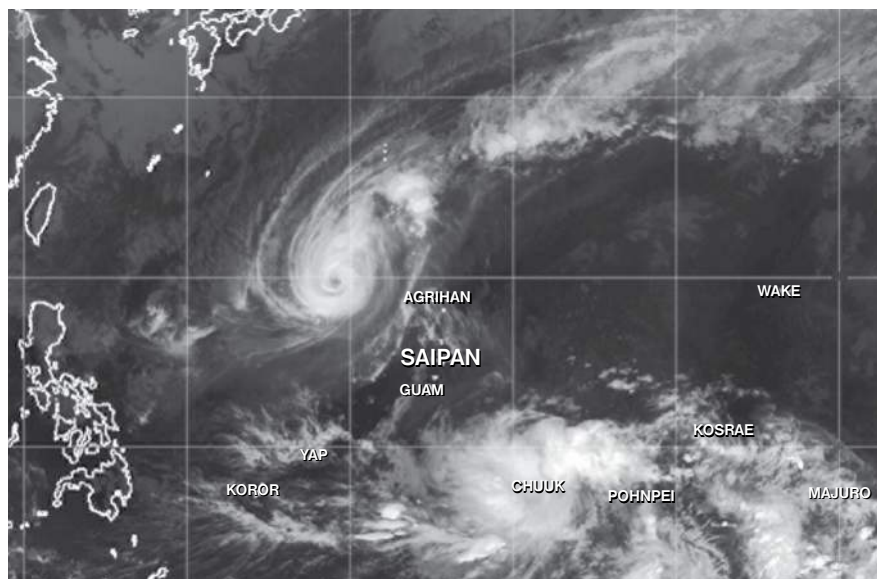
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Cloudy | ▲72 | ▼61 |
| Beijing | Partly Sunny | ▲48 | ▼25 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | ▲75 | ▼64 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲77 | ▼72 |
| London | Partly Sunny | ▲47 | ▼43 |
| Los Angeles | Showers | ▲71 | ▼48 |
| Manila | Partly Sunny | ▲90 | ▼73 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲65 | ▼54 |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | ▲82 | ▼70 |
| New York | Rain | ▲57 | ▼48 |
| Osaka | Partly Sunny | ▲58 | ▼43 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲50 | ▼37 |
| Pusan | Mostly Cloudy | ▲54 | ▼35 |
| Rome | Rain | ▲65 | ▼55 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲52 | ▼33 |
| San Francisco | Sunny | ▲67 | ▼43 |
| Seoul | Partly Sunny | ▲46 | ▼34 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲55 | ▼45 |
| Washington, DC | Rain | ▲64 | ▼45 |

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12:32 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.3 Feet |
| 7:32 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 12:43 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet |
| 5:48 PM | Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nida (26)W is centered northwest of Guam at 20N139E and is stationary with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are within 150 miles of the center. extensive clouds and scattered showers cover an area from 25N139E to 21N133E. For more information on Typhoon Nida see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advirsories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends northeastward from 5N130E to 10N144E then southeastward through a weak circulation just southwest of Pohnpei at 5N157E then eastward to end at 5N170E. Scattered showers are near Palau and Yap in an area from 6N131E to 10N135E to 10N144E to EQ149E back to 6N131E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Chuuk are within 150 miles of a line from 9N154E to 6N152E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae or south of a line from 5N157E to 5N163E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the western Marshall Islands within 200 miles of a line 9N164E to 1N173E and near the date line east of a line from 8N178E to 5N178E.

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:27 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:28 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Thursday | 6:28 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Friday | 6:29 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Saturday | 6:29 AM | 5:46 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 4:38 AM | 5:01 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:35 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Thursday | 6:39 AM | 7:08 PM |
| Friday | 7:44 AM | 8:11 PM |
| Saturday | 8:49 AM | 9:09 PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:45am | 5:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 7:30pm | Daily via NRT |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| NW297 | 4:45pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/703 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 13:30am+1 | 1, 5 via PUS |
| C09603/933 | 3:15pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:30am | 4:05am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:20am | 2:50am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:20am | 4:05am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09316 | 2:20am | 3:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW288 | 12:05pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily via NRT |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW298 | 10:05pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| NW288 | 8:45pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 via ICN | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 via GUM | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 |
| C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ716/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2,4,6,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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# Some credit card interest rates (APR's) are the envy of Mafia loan sharks

**By WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.*

I have been thinking about the current financial situation in our debt-ridden country and I dare say that of many people regarding their personal debt and credit cards in particular. I recall the advice my dear sweet granny who once mentioned to me way back during the Great Depression. "Billy," she said, "if you don't have any money, you had better have information—or at least know where to get it." In other words, "Get smart."

These days it is almost a necessity to have one or more credit cards. Not only are they convenient but often they are a necessity, particularly if you rent an automobile or make hotel reservations, purchase a book from Amazon or whatever. Of course, the cardinal rule is pay the balance each month to avoid the interest charges and try never to run a balance due the bank.

But that's not always possible and that's when it behooves one to be very cautious.

I had a balance on a card and always paid on time in excess of the minimum and never exceeded the line of credit. I had the card for years and was a good credit risk. I recently received a notice from the bank that my annual percentage rate (APR) was being increased to an interest rate that I considered exceedingly high, if not outright usurious.

I wrote the president of the bank and asked that the new higher APR be returned to the previous lower rate and cited my excellent payment record. Of course, I could have paid the balance off and restricted further use of the card but, as a result of an unrelated pressing commitment, it just wasn't convenient for me to so at the time.

The president of the bank replied, thanking me for being such a good customer for so many years, expressing the bank's appreciation for my business but "no," I had agreed to permit the bank to adjust its policies and rates at any time. This was true.

To say I was a bit irritated would be an understatement. So I exercised the right to "opt out" and remain at the lower APR and the account would be closed with the outstanding balance due at the previous lower rate.

"So be it," I thought, "but I'll get my revenge. But how to do it? How could a poor ol' country boy peering through the tall grass take on a huge financial institution and hit them where it would hurt most, namely, on their bottom line?" Then I remembered what my sweet granny told me years ago.

Dear reader, if you are interested in how the action of the power of one might adversely impact not only a single bank but the bottom line of all credit card issuing banks, then read the requests I made to Sen. Chris Dodd, chairman, Senate Banking Committee, which oversees the credit card industry, and several other members of the U.S. Congress (but not Kilili since he can't vote); Douglas Shulman, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service; Ben S. Bernanke, chairman, Federal Reserve; Tim Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury; Law Professor Elizabeth Warren, Congress Oversight Panel, Trouble Asset Relief Program (TARP) (the nemesis of all bank chairman who accepted taxpayer "bailout" money).

Here's the subject sent to the above.

## Exorbitant credit card interest rates (APR's) thwart U.S. economic recovery

**(A Suggested Economic Investigation by the IRS)**

The article below forms the basis of a suggestion that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service should investigate issuers of credit cards and conduct a thorough comprehensive economic impact study to determine the adverse impact of excessive credit card interest rates as a factor toward reducing federal tax collections.

An official of the American Banker's Association quoted in Frontline (PBS Television: www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/credit/view/) pointed out there are more than 641 million credit cards in circulation amounting to an estimated $1.5 trillion[(1)] in consumer spending—resulting in short- and long-term consumer debt. This same source indicated that the so-called "revolvers," namely those who carry monthly credit card debt, number about 115 million. These same authorities state that the average family owes roughly $8,000 in credit card debt which generated $30 billion last year for the credit card industry. I assume this estimate is the aggregate industry profit and may be in need of revision as my source of information is dated. Nevertheless, these data are indicative of the point I wish to make and that being that exorbitant credit card interest rates deprive the U.S. Treasury of millions in unrealized revenue.

Notwithstanding the positive benefits accruing to society by virtue of credit card use which are beyond the scope of this report and in any case are well known, in the opinion of this observer there is little appreciation of a particular negative issue worthy of further examination and research.

Specifically, the interest earned (dare I say, usury) by some card issuing companies over and above a reasonable nominal rate "soaks up" untold millions that otherwise would be available for consumer expenditures. This "sponge" effect results in a weakened economic multiplier by reducing expenditures to the overall detriment of the economy.

In many instances the interest imposed by the card lender is far in excess of an otherwise fair and reasonable return. For example, consider the rental of funds at a reasonable rate of, say, 6 percent interest (the "real" rate plus a rate to compensate for preserving the purchasing power of the borrowed capital at, say, 4 percent interest (or whatever the inflation rate has been projected to be). The result being a reasonable total finance charge (in this example) of 10 percent (the "nominal" rate). Understand the above percentages are cited as examples for the point I wish to make. In the above example the "real" rate of interest is 6 percent. The "nominal" rate is 6 percent plus the rate of inflation, or 4 percent, for a total of 10 percent—a fair and reasonable return when inflation averages around 4 percent per annum.

Considering that many card issuing companies charge interest as high as 29.99 percent or greater on the unpaid balance, the difference between the two (minus 10 percent)—or 19.99 percent—is the amount which consumers no longer have available for discretionary spending and thus not available to function as a force for consumer multiplier expenditures within the economy. It amounts to hundreds of million of dollars annually and for the most part largely lost to all except the banks.

Economists refer to the multiplier effect as based upon the premise that one person's expenditure is another's income, multiplied over and over throughout the economy, and of course, taxed at each level of transfer which ultimately results in increased federal tax revenues.

Excessive credit card interest rates result in less federal tax collections because of the so-called "sponge effect of funds" or the card industry's "absorption effect" on money that would otherwise be available for circulation by consumers within the economy, thereby generating increased revenue for the U.S. Treasury through the multiplier effect.

Exorbitant and excessive interest charges over and above a reasonable and fair earning's rate for the industry is detrimental to the American economy over both the short- and long-term.

Reduced finance charges from present high levels to that of a reasonable and fair percentage for the issuing card companies obviously translates into more money available for consumer expenditures on the part of those more responsible card holders and increased revenue for the Treasury.

More reasonable and lower interest rates would also have the beneficial effect of encouraging the card issuing companies to exercise greater due diligence and discrimination in the provision of credit (something many did not previously do) thereby limiting their credit granting privilege only to those with a greater propensity (and ability) to repay their obligation rather than indiscriminately issue cards to every Tom, Dick and Mary Jane, which was so often previously based only upon the most cursory and inadequate review a potential borrower's credit re-payment ability. The result of such a policy being that those card holders who do comply with card company payment regulations are penalized with high percentage rates to cover the defaults of the deadbeats who do not.

An excessive APR interest charge is money taken from the pockets of those who strive to diligently meet their monthly financial obligation. Their payment of the excessive interest, e.g., say 15 percent to 19.99 percent, represents money not available for the tax generating multiplier effect resulting from consumer purchases. This card industry abuse has been permitted by lack of regulation by the federal government and specifically the House and Senate Banking committees.

A comprehensive economic study of the above issue should be undertaken by the Internal Revenue Service to determine the long-term loss to the government's revenue base, not to mention the consumer economy. To my knowledge no one has yet pointed out the revenue loss to the Treasury as a result of the imposition of millions of huge and unreasonable finance charges on the part of many credit card companies. This was confirmed by my discussion with economists at the Treasury Department.

In a nutshell, every dollar paid to meet exorbitant credit card interest charges above, say, 10 percent comes out of either consumption or savings. Less consumption means less profit for the seller/producer, which means less taxes paid to IRS and thus less income to the U.S. Treasury.

Of course, bank profits do also translate into salaries for executives and employees, equipment purchases and investment in construction of new banks and other structures and therefore does have a multiplier effect within the economy, but this observer submits such expenditures have far less impact than that of lower APR's for the many millions of average, diligent card holders who do not invest in Swiss villas, foreign-manufactured yachts or the maintenance of extended residences abroad.

My opinion: The usurious APR rates charged by card issuing banks would be the envy of Mafia loan sharks. As for the opposition for real credit card reform on the part of some members in the U.S. Congress who have permitted this legalized larceny to take place, they are guilty of "economic treason."

[(1)] *To reduce the sum of one trillion to a comprehensible figure, with one dollar (1/trillionth) equated to one second in 32,000 years. Source: "The Sizesaurus: A Compendium of Measurements" by Stephen Strauss*

## CONCLUDING

*From Page 11*

the bamboo sticks were from China, the chicken and pork raised in Maryland, the barbecue stand staffed by a contract worker who remitted most of his earnings elsewhere, and the charcoal and the marinade sauce were not locally produced. The folding chairs had never been used though purchased three years earlier for watching parades. Hardly any of its cost benefited the local other than the indigenous worker employed in the warehouse.

Now, change the players and impose the same analysis to the garment and visitors' industry, and we begin to see that nothing in the resource, production, and distribution process benefits the local much, save two areas: land use leases, and collected government revenues. Retaining investors' assets are foreign banks that hold local deposits and make it available elsewhere. Lending companies' interest rates on loans are allegedly usurious.

The island economy is tethered to a dole out system extended all the way from Washington D.C. Like an AA attendee, the first thing we need to acknowledge is our dependence to Uncle Sam, armed and unarmed. And let us stop claiming that the garment industry marked a golden age of our self-reliance; it wasn't. The cost of services alone needed to support the imported labor force was huge and nonexistent, and their unregulated presence was evident in the frenzy prior to Nov. 28. With the carrying capacity of the island stressed to the limit, with no self-generating asset of its own, is it any wonder that our CUC, CHC, DPS, and others are at a crossroad of collapse?

Until all residents—local and alien—take ownership of our natural capital so a visit to one site does not result in the burglary of one's vehicle and the loss of one's electronics, or local and alien human resource cease to be objects of exploitation (just got a $400 quote for an expired driver's license under-the-table renewal today), the economy shall remain at the mercy of forces that tend to exploit rather than sustain and support.

We stand at the crossroads of many local decisions to be made. Cinta started a natural resource inventory a few years back. What have we got? Let trade schools avail of needed skills for extractive and productive industries. Let the common sense on the ground start making sense of our Commons. Uncles Ben and Eloy offer experience. OK. Can the local private and civic sectors dare and care to offer the newness required?

## GENERATION

*From Page 11*

Immigration service, from Chamorro, Carolinian, Caucasian, to Filipinos, Micronesian, Korean, and Chinese. Most of these officers who can retire will probably retire. A very few I suspect will try working with their federal counterparts. The majority of our Immigration officers I hope will find themselves re-assigned to other CNMI law enforcement agencies.

I know that everyone of us appreciates the service and cares for what journey is in store for them. They helped write a critical chapter in the CNMI's history and truly lived a unique chapter in their own lives. Let us wish them luck as they take up new opportunities within the CNMI, federally or regionally. Let us extend our sincere thank you, *si yuus maase* and *gillisow* to our Immigration officers for proudly standing guard on our borders for 34 years. Thank you for the generation of service.

**Claudio "Clyde" K. Norita**
*Tanapag Village, Saipan*

# Pacific

# Cook Islands face critical water shortage

**RAROTONGA, Cook Islands** (Cook Islands News/PIR)—Rarotonga, Cook Islands is now officially in a drought that is expected to last for another three to four months—and the public is urged to conserve water.

Government is calling the situation "critical."

It was Deputy Prime Minister Sir Terepai Maoate who broke the bad news to the nation in parliament yesterday, saying Cabinet had just been talking about putting plans in place to address the problem.

He said cabinet directed the ministry of infrastructure and planning (MOIP) to look at the water shortage matter as a 'matter of priority'.

The issue came up again in parliament when opposition party deputy leader Teina Bishop claimed he couldn't have a shower at his Nikao home because the village has no water.

"If something smells different in the house, it's me!" he exclaimed.

Bishop asked when government would address the matter 'so MPs can have a shower before going to parliament'.

MOIP minister Tangata Vavia revealed that cabinet had been briefed by the water works department and Meteorological Office director Arona Ngari yesterday and the news was bad.

"The (water) situation is critical and the forecast as far as the Met Office is concerned is the dry spell will go on for another three to four months," said Vavia.

"According to Arona Ngari as well, there are some rain clouds but whether it's going to come down or not we don't know."

Vavia said water works would be advising the public to conserve water and invest in containers, such as water tanks, to store water.

"In this situation right now the (water) intakes are very, very low."

Water works Officer Adrian Teotahi told CI News yesterday that the water situation is 'close to critical' in Rarotonga.

The department is asking the public to consider its water usage closely. Growers and farmers are among those who are being urged to seriously conserve water.

**RAREST STAMP** AP

This image provided by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. shows an envelope with a rare $4 Wells Fargo Pony Express postage stamp, mailed in August 1861 from the U.S. Consulate in Oahu, Hawaii to the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. It is part of the multi-million dollar Pony Express mail collection owned by retired Honolulu newspaper publisher, Thurston Twigg-Smith, that will be offered in a public auction by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City on Dec. 5, 2009.

# American Samoa power restoration on track

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa** (The Samoa News/PIR)—Part of a three-tiered power restoration plan for American Samoa following the Sept. 29 disaster was implemented yesterday when the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Samoa Power Authority threw the switch at the Satala power plant.

Yesterday morning ASPA shutdown power in certain parts of Fagatogo, the Bay area and other villages, and in the afternoon the rest of the Eastern District, to enable the ASPA crew to perform electrical work at the Satala plant for the transition of the ASPA system from the FEMA generators to the Aggreko units that arrived on island more than a week ago.

Tier II of the plan included the delivery, installation and activation of 27 Aggreko one-megawatt generators. Eighteen are located at the Satala Power Plant with the remaining nine at the Tafuna plant.

Yesterday afternoon, FEMA and ASPA announced jointly that it "threw the switch" at the Satala power plant activating 18 one-megawatt generators.

Tier II will be fully implemented once all 27 generators are activated, at which time the FEMA generators installed as part of Tier I will be shipped back to the mainland in the coming weeks. The Aggreko generators will remain in place for 18-24 months.

The Sept. 29 earthquake, tsunami and subsequent flooding severely damaged the Satala Power Plant and the loss left Tutuila with insufficient electrical generation for approximately 50% of its customer base.

As a result, ASPA was forced to run its Tafuna Power Plant at full capacity, which under normal operating conditions, runs at about 80 percent capacity to cover surge power demands. The additional demand on the Tafuna plant significantly increased the chances of a total system failure; prompting FEMA and ASPA to develop the three-tier power restoration plan.

Tier I of the power restoration plan involved air lifting 56 FEMA generators via military aircraft to meet immediate power needs. Small- to- medium sized generators were installed throughout the island to provide critical power to schools, government and community agencies, sewage stations and water wells.

# Clerical error costs Vanuatu prime minister seat

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fijilive/PIR)—Vanuatu's prime minister has lost his seat in parliament due to a simple paperwork error, officials said, throwing the tiny Pacific nation's politics into turmoil.

Prime Minister Edward Natapei forfeited his seat after missing three consecutive sittings without notifying the speaker, a blunder one analyst called "flabbergasting".

"It was a standing order," an official at the speaker's office told AFP. "If you miss three consecutive meetings, your seat will be declared vacant."

Natapei was rushing back from a Commonwealth summit in Trinidad and Tobago, while his cabinet went into emergency talks.

According to Derek Brien of the Pacific Institute of Public Policy think-tank, Vanuatu will be ruled by a caretaker government until parliament elects a new prime minister next week.

To retain his seat, Natapei needed only to hand in a signed explanation for his absence, reports said.

"It's truly unbelievable something as basic as that could have been overlooked," Brien said. "It's flabbergasting. I truly am shocked this has happened." Brien said an MP had lost his seat for the same reason in the 1980s, despite a legal appeal. He predicted furious horse-trading over the weekend as politicians bid for the premiership and cabinet positions.

"It's a massive oversight by the prime minister's people," he said. "All they had to do was give notice he's away on official business."

# Miss Fiji wins Miss South Pacific Pageant

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—FOR the first time in the history of the Miss South Pacific Pageant, Miss Fiji has been named the 2009/2010 Miss South Pacific.

An elated and rather emotional Miss Fiji Merewalesi Nailatikau was last night crowned Miss South Pacific.

She also scooped four special awards including the Pacific Building Solutions Miss People's Choice, PBS CK's Ezy Buys best talent, PBS Coca-Cola traditionally inspired costumes and PBS Fiji Times best interview.

A strong competitor in the pageant from the very beginning, Ms Nailatikau spoke eloquently during her final interview on whether smacking, as a form of discipline should be outlawed.

"I thank you for our challenges because they will shape us into stronger and better people," she said.

"I give my greetings and my salutations to the people of the Government of Samoa, the birthplace of the South Pacific pageant.

"This pageant is a platform where we can share our concerns, opinions and values with our communities.

"I decided this morning (yesterday), that I have already received my reward: it's the experience that I have shared with my sisters despite all odds to reach an understanding and show unity."

She said this bond was a call to world leaders that unity is possible if differences are put aside.

Ms Nailatikau said the people of Fiji had shaped her into the person that she was.

"I dedicate this to the entire South Pacific. The need for some countries is more urgent than others."

## PACIFIC BRIEFS

### New Caledonia census called 'inaccurate'

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—New Caledonia's bureau of statistics is going to try to refine the data from the recent census before the French government approves it. The territory's government has asked France not to approve officially the census findings, released two weeks ago, because the information collected is inaccurate. The President, Philippe Gomes, says the census was conducted when there was industrial action, a swine flu epidemic and difficulty in recruiting enumerators. Our correspondent in Noumea, Claudine Wery, says the government could not believe there was a population difference of only 15,000 from the previous census of 2004.

### Fiji budget cuts military, favors education

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The Fiji interim government has tabled its 2010 budget which is being described as business friendly and aimed at helping the poor. The education sector will get the biggest allocation. The police will have a budget increase while the military will see a cut. The budget, which expects a deficit of 115 million US dollars, provides for changes to boost tourism which has been a key revenue earner. From February, departing tourists will get a refund of the 12.5 percent value added on purchases above 260 US dollars. The interim finance minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, has also announced that the shopping and liquor trading hours will be extended in some centers of Fiji. He has also announced a monthly Food Voucher program for those who register under a new assistance program.

### American Samoa contractors object to building contract

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa contractors are crying foul over the awarding of a construction project funded with money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the Department of Public Works. The Department is carrying out renovations for offices of the Department of Human and Social Services at Utulei. Contractors told a local radio station, KHJ, that the job was never advertised and that having Public works involved defeats the job creating purpose of the recovery program. Officials at Procurement said the decision to give the job to Public works was made between the Director of Human and Social Services and the Executive Director of the American Samoa Economic Stimulus Office. But it said tenders were being put out for the building materials.

# Business

## Dubai crisis, holiday sales seen to dominate trading

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Investors may have to do some emotional juggling as the trading week begins.

While markets around the world assess the fallout from Dubai's worrisome debt problems, investors trying to get a handle on the global economy will also have to factor in some encouraging U.S. retail sales over the Thanksgiving weekend. The question for many is whether they should focus on the possibility of another spreading credit crisis, or signs that consumer spending in this country may indeed be stabilizing.

News that Dubai's investment arm, Dubai World, could default on $60 billion in debt sent world markets skidding on Thanksgiving, and U.S. stock markets initially followed when trading resumed Friday after the holiday. Wall Street regained some ground as overseas exchanges stabilized and as analysts reported that U.S. banks had relatively limited exposure to the problems in the Persian Gulf city-state.

Dubai World's troubles gave a jolt to investors who had set aside many of their concerns about risk during the stock market's almost nine-month rally. Suddenly, they had to worry that the crisis in Dubai could be a harbinger of similar problems in other countries.

"Markets were getting a bit complacent," said Jeff Mortimer, chief investment officer at Charles Schwab Investment Management. "This is a wake-up call" that the economic recovery is going to be choppy and uneven, he added.

Investors might get some reassurance from Sunday's news that the United Arab Emirates' central bank will offer additional liquidity to banks, a move designed to keep credit markets from freezing up. But if traders decide to hunker down rather than take on more risk, they're likely to keep selling stocks and turn to the relative safety of Treasury bonds and the dollar.

AP

With Burj Dubai, world's tallest under construction tower in background, camels look for their morning food in the outskirts of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009.

## '12 Days of Christmas' items' cost would top $87K

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Making one's true love happy will cost a whopping $87,403 this year, a minuscule increase from last year, according to the latest cost analysis of the items in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

That's the grand total for the single partridge in a pear tree to the 12 drummers drumming, purchased repeatedly as the song suggests, according to the annual "Christmas Price Index" compiled by PNC Wealth Management. The price is up a mere $794, or less than 1 percent, from $86,609 last year.

The cost of buying each item just once is increasing this year to $21,466, up 1.8 percent from last year's $21,081.

Jim Dunigan, managing executive of investment for PNC Wealth Management, which has been calculating the cost of Christmas since 1984, attributed the modest increase to lower energy costs and fewer wage increases.

It's the smallest increase since 2002, when the cost actually decreased, according to PNC.

The main driver behind the higher cost is that the price of gold has increased 43 percent, bringing the five gold rings up $150 to $500.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Oil rises in Asia as fears over Dubai's debts ease

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Oil prices rebounded to near $77 a barrel Monday in Asia as panic about a global fallout from Dubai's debt problems abated. Benchmark crude for January delivery rose 63 cents to $76.68 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.91 to settle at $76.05 on Friday. News that Dubai's investment arm, Dubai World, could default on $60 billion in debt sent world markets tumbling on Friday as investors fretted about another financial crisis.

#### Asia stocks rebound after UAE pledges bank support

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Asian stock markets rebounded Monday from their steep fall last week after the United Arab Emirates moved to contain the fallout from Dubai's debt crisis. Major markets jumped by 2 percent or more after tumbling on Friday amid fears Dubai's debt problems could lead to more financial instability just as the global recession is easing. The UAE's central bank helped soothe investor fears, at least for now, by pledging Sunday to make extra funding available to all banks in the country, including foreign institutions with local branches.

#### China's premier: Beijing to keep yuan stable

**NANJING, China** (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao says Beijing will keep the value of its currency, the yuan, at a stable and balanced level, shrugging off appeals for faster reforms. Wen made the comment following a summit Monday with European Union leaders, who are urging China to move more quickly in loosening controls that keep the yuan, also known as the renminbi, linked to the weakening U.S. dollar. Wen said that "to maintain the basic stability of the rmb exchange rate is conducive to the economy and the recovery of the world economy." He described as "unfair" demands for changes and accused critics of China's policies as "practicing trade protectionism against developing countries."

# Nation

## Police seek ex-con in Wash. police shootings

**PARKLAND, Wash.** (AP)—A man with an extensive criminal past—including a lengthy prison sentence commuted by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee nearly a decade ago—was being sought Sunday in a deadly ambush on four police officers who were gunned down inside a coffee shop.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer told reporters that Maurice Clemmons, 37, was believed to have been in the area around the time of the shooting, but declined to say what evidence might link him to the shooting.

Clemmons has an extensive violent criminal history from Arkansas, including aggravated robbery and theft, the sheriff's office said. He also recently was arrested and charged in Washington state for assaulting a police officer, and second-degree rape of a child. Using a bail bondsman, he posted $150,000 and was released from jail last week.

Still unclear was why a man entered the coffee shop and gunned down Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39; and Officers Ronald Owens, 37; Tina Griswold, 40; and Greg Richards 42.

"We have no motive at all," Troyer said. "I don't think when we find out what it is, it will be anything that makes any sense or be worth it."

The four officers were with the 100-member police department of Lakewood, which adjoins the unincorporated area of Parkland, where the shootings took place.

Richards' sister-in-law, Melanie Burwell, called the shooting "senseless."

"He didn't have a mean bone in his body," she said. "If there were more people in the world like Greg, things like this wouldn't happen.

## Turbulence ahead: Senate opens health care debate

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The 60 votes aren't there any more.

With the Senate set to begin debate Monday on health care overhaul, the all-hands-on-deck Democratic coalition that allowed the bill to advance is fracturing already. Yet majority Democrats will need 60 votes again to finish.

Some Democratic senators say they'll jump ship from the bill without tighter restrictions on abortion coverage. Others say they'll go unless a government plan to compete with private insurance companies gets tossed overboard. Such concessions would enrage liberals, the heart and soul of the party.

There's no clear course for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to steer legislation through Congress to President Barack Obama. You can't make history unless you reach 60 votes, and don't count on Republicans helping him.

But Reid is determined to avoid being remembered as another Democrat who tried and failed to make health care access for the middle class a part of America's social safety net.

"Generation after generation has called on us to fix this broken system," he said at a recent Capitol Hill rally. "We're now closer than ever to getting it done."

Reid

His bill includes $848 billion over 10 years to gradually expand coverage to most of those now uninsured. It would ban onerous insurance industry practices such as denying coverage or charging higher premiums because of someone's poor health. Those who now have the hardest time getting coverage—the self-employed and small businesses—could buy a policy in a new insurance market, with government subsidies for many. Older people would get better prescription coverage.

Most people covered by big employers would gain more protections without major changes. One exception would be those with high-cost insurance plans, whose premiums could rise as a result of a tax on insurers issue the coverage.

The public is ambivalent about the Democrats' legislation. While 58 percent want elected officials to tackle health care now, about half of those supporters say they don't like what they're hearing about the plans, according to a new Kaiser Family Foundation poll.

The Senate debate risks alienating more people because much of the discussion probably will revolve around divisive issues that preoccupy lawmakers.

"A large portion of the debate will be spent on issues that aren't important to the workability of health reform," said Paul Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change.

The debate should start off modestly, with each side offering one amendment. No votes are scheduled Monday.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Report: FBI paid controversial NJ blogger for help

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—A New Jersey blogger about to stand trial on charges he made death threats against federal judges apparently was paid by the FBI in its battle against domestic terrorism, according to a published report. The Record of Bergen County reported Sunday that Hal Turner received thousands of dollars from the FBI to report on neo-Nazis and white supremacist groups and was sent undercover to Brazil. Turner also claims the FBI coached him to make racist, anti-Semitic and other threatening statements on his radio show, but the newspaper also found many federal officials were concerned that his audience might follow up on his violence rhetoric.

#### 4 kids among 5 killed in La. crash; 7 critical

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—A minivan packed with 13 children and two adults was likely overweight and not designed to carry so many, police said Sunday, a day after the vehicle crashed on a highway, killing five. State police said the minivan likely blew a tire and rolled Saturday on Interstate 10 near Baton Rouge. None of the children was wearing a seat belt and all were thrown from the vehicle, state police said. Four children ages 2 to 14 were killed, along with the driver. State police spokesman Russell Graham did not have updates on the conditions of the injured children, and their names were not released.

#### Mo. man suspected in Kansas killing of wife, kids

**BURLINGAME, Kan.** (AP)—A former city official from Missouri who lost his job after he was charged with assaulting his wife was accused Sunday of fatally shooting her and their teenage daughters in eastern Kansas. The Kansas attorney general's office said in a statement that James Kraig Kahler, 46, was arrested Sunday on suspicion of three counts of capital murder in the deaths of his 44-year-old wife, Karen, and their daughters, Emily, 18, and 16-year-old Lauren. He also is accused of attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of his wife's 89-year-old grandmother, Dorothy Wight, in whose home near Topeka the bodies were discovered on Saturday night.

# Asia

## China tries to fix crumbling health care system

**JIZHUANGCUN, China** (AP)—Unable to rely on China's broken health care system, the Ji family was desperate.

Doctors had taken 15-year-old Ji Xiaoyan off a ventilator and discharged her because her family could no longer pay her hospital bills. So an uncle cobbled together a makeshift ventilator from bicycle and washing machine parts, driven by a noisy electric motor. The contraption pumped air into the teenager's lungs through a washer hose plugged into an incision in her throat for more than a month, until the family got donations for treatment.

"I knew my child didn't want to leave this world. We had to save her no matter what," said Yang Yunhua, the girl's mother, a farmer in Henan province. "But we are only poor people."

Such horror stories prompted the government to launch a three-year, 850-billion-yuan ($124-billion) effort earlier this year to rebuild the crumbling health care system.

China once provided rudimentary but universal care to everyone. But as the country shifted from socialism to a market economy over the past 30 years, health care frayed. Medical costs soared faster than incomes, and treatment today depends on one's ability to pay. Nearly a third of the poor say that health is the most important cause of their poverty, according to the World Health Organization.

"People are paying too much out of pocket for their services for their health care. Many are becoming impoverished in the process," said John Langenbrunner, a World Bank health economist in Beijing. "The level of dissatisfaction, at the local level, is very high and the government is responding to this."

Affordable medical services also could help reduce China's dependence on exports by encouraging people to stop saving so much for potential medical costs—and spend their earnings on consumer goods instead.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, Yang Yunhua cries as she recounts the ordeal of using a homemade contraption, seen at left, to keep her daughter alive in Jizhuangcun in central China's Henan province.

## Indians still haunted by worst industrial accident

**BHOPAL, India** (AP)—Hazra Bi wishes she could forget. But her damaged family is a living reminder of that December night 25 years ago when lethal gas leaked from a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, in the worst industrial disaster the world has ever seen.

The gas that swept through her poor neighborhood left her nearly blind in one eye, menopausal at 36, with searing headaches and breathlessness. It left her son, then 4, unable to control his bladder and suffering debilitating panic attacks. And two years ago it gave her a granddaughter born severely underweight, her legs like twigs, who still cannot walk or talk.

The Bhopal industrial disaster killed about 4,000 people in the early hours of Dec. 3, 1984. A few days later the death toll had doubled. Over the next few years, the lingering effects of the poison nearly doubled the toll again, to about 15,000, according to government estimates. Local activists say the real numbers are almost twice that.

A quarter-century later, thousands like Bi are still grappling with the affects of exposure to the deadly gas as it winds its way through generations not even born when the disaster struck. Rights groups say toxic waste from the plant still contaminates the soil and groundwater in nearby neighborhoods.

"We're still finding children as young as 2 months old being born with birth defects," says Satinath Sarangi, director of the Sambhavna Trust Clinic, which offers free health care for those exposed to gas or polluted water.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Journalists protest massacre in Philippines

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Some 1,000 journalists and activists marched Monday in the capital to protest the massacre in the southern Philippines of 57 civilians, including at least 30 journalists and their staff in the world's deadliest attack on the media. Clad mostly in black shirts and carrying a black mock coffin as well as placards calling for a stop to media killings, they demanded the arrest of all suspects in the Nov. 23 massacre in southern Maguindanao province. The massacre victims were in a convoy to cover a local politician's filing of his intention to run for governor in the predominantly Muslim province when dozens of gunmen abducted and then butchered them on a nearby hill and buried them in mass graves. The candidate's wife and sisters were among the dead.

#### Bangladesh ferry death toll rises to 72

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—The death toll from the capsizing of a ferry over the weekend in southern Bangladesh rose Monday to 72 after rescuers recovered an additional 14 bodies. Rescuers plucked 10 bloated bodies Monday from River Tetulia, where the overcrowded triple-deck ferry capsized late Friday, police official Mohammad Bayezid said. An additional four bodies were found overnight in the river, he said. Bayezid said the bloated bodies were found within one kilometer (less than one mile) of the site of the accident. Rescuers were using boats to go further downstream because some bodies may have been washed away during high tide.

#### Dalai Lama urges world to act on climate change

**SYDNEY** (AP)—The world's leaders must prioritize the issue of global warming above all else, the Dalai Lama said Monday, adding that he feels encouraged by next month's climate change summit in Copenhagen. The revered Buddhist figure and Nobel Peace Prize winner, in Australia for a series of lectures on universal responsibility and the environment, said politicians must focus their energy on finding a solution to climate change. "Sometimes their number one importance is national interest, national economic interest, then global (warming) issue is sometimes second," he said during a news conference. "That I think should change. The global issue, it should be number one."

# World

## Israel to beef up enforcement of settlement freeze

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel's defense minister on Sunday ordered his office to triple the number of construction inspectors in the West Bank to enforce a new settlement freeze declared by the government, while settler leaders vowed to defy the edict.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said 40 new inspectors would be added in the next two weeks to work with police in ensuring the settlement freeze is observed. Only 14 inspectors are deployed there now.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week announced a 10-month moratorium on new housing construction in the West Bank in a move he said was meant to jump-start peace talks.

The Palestinians have said they will not resume peace negotiations until Israel halts all settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem - areas they claim for a future independent state.

They have rejected Netanyahu's latest offer because it does not include east Jerusalem, their would-be capital, or stop construction of some 3,000 homes that have been approved or are already under way.

Speaking Sunday, Netanyahu touted his construction freeze and the removal of some roadblocks in the West Bank.

"It is clear to everyone who observes the situation objectively ... that Israel wants peace, Israel wants to enter a peace process," he said. "I don't see the same readiness among the Palestinians. I see the opposite, posing all kinds of preconditions."

Netanyahu, addressing a gathering of journalists in the southern resort of Eilat, warned that the absence of talks would strengthen the militant Hamas rulers of Gaza and "their patrons in Iran."

## Honduras hopes to move past coup with election

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** (AP)—Hondurans on Sunday elected a new president whose first challenge will be defending his legitimacy to the world and ending a crisis over a June coup that has isolated one of Latin America's poorest countries.

Porfirio Lobo and Elvin Santos, two prosperous businessmen from the political old guard, are the front-runners. But their campaigns have been overshadowed by the debate over whether Hondurans should vote at all in an election largely shunned by international monitors.

The debate has split Western Hemisphere countries, and voter turnout could determine how widely the next government is recognized.

The United States, hoping to resolve its first major policy test in Latin America, is defending the election while leftist governments allege it whitewashes Central America's first coup in 20 years.

Washington's support matters most in Honduras, which sends more than 60 percent of its exports to the United States, from bananas to Fruit-of-the-Loom underwear, and relies heavily on money sent home from the 1 million Hondurans who live in the U.S.

President Barack Obama's government suspended development aid and anti-narcotic cooperation with Honduras over the coup. But U.S. diplomats say Hondurans have the right to choose their next leader in regular elections that were scheduled well before Zelaya's ouster.

## Ballot box gives ex-guerrilla Uruguay's presidency

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay** (AP)—A former guerrilla fighter has achieved through the ballot box what he could never earn by bombing, kidnapping and attacking his political enemies—the power to legitimately lead an entire nation.

Jose Mujica, now president-elect of Uruguay, seemed like he could hardly believe the transformation himself in his rousing victory speech Sunday night, delivered as rain drenched thousands of supporters along the Ramblas, Montevideo's coastal avenue.

"The people gave us this victory!" Mujica shouted, moving back and forth as aides struggled to cover the 74-year-old with umbrellas. "There are those who believe that power is up above, and they don't notice that it's actually in the hearts of the great masses. Thank you! It cost me an entire life, perhaps, to learn this. Thank you, and until forever!"

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Iran forced to build 10 enrichment plants

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—One of Iran's vice presidents says Tehran had no intention of building 10 new uranium enrichment facilities until it was criticized by the U.N. nuclear watchdog. Ali Akbar Salehi told state radio Monday that Iran needed to give a strong response to the resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Friday demanding a halt in construction of its newly revealed uranium enrichment facility. A Cabinet meeting headed by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday approved plans to build 10 industrial scale uranium enrichment facilities to produce nuclear fuel.

U.S. and its allies fear the facilities could also produce material for a nuclear weapon and have called for an immediate halt to Iran's enrichment of uranium.

#### Russians mourn victims of express train wreck

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russians mourned at religious services and soccer stadiums Sunday after a deadly train wreck that authorities blamed on a terrorist bomb. The leader of the Russian Orthodox Church urged the nation not to give in to fear. Relatives identified loved ones killed in the wreck of the express train. If confirmed as caused by a bombing, the wreck would be Russia's deadliest terrorist attack outside the violence-plagued North Caucasus provinces in five years. Television networks took entertainment programs off the air and moments of silence were observed before matches on the final Sunday of the Russian football league.

#### Police: 3 aid workers kidnapped in Mauritania

**NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania** (AP)—Three Spanish aid workers were kidnapped by gunmen Sunday while delivering supplies to impoverished villages in the desert nation of Mauritania, a police official said. The two men and one woman were attacked while delivering supplies to villages along a 240-mile (400-kilometer) road that links the capital Nouakchott to Nouadhibou to the north, the official said. He asked that his name not be used because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "The Spaniards were inside their car traveling in the humanitarian convoy which had gone to distribute humanitarian aid to the poorest of the poor of Nouadhibou when the unknown gunmen started shooting at them before kidnapping them," said the official, a top police officer in the capital.

# Overdrive

# 2011 Kia Sorento is a great family car

**BY WARREN BROWN**
THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2011 Kia Sorento all-wheel-drive crossover utility wagon, which goes on sale in the United States next fall, is one of the best family haulers offered by any car company anywhere.
THE WASHINGTON POST

**MOSCOW**—Commercial globalism thrives on the idea that consumers everywhere want the same things—quality, affordability, safety and convenience.

It is why every major automobile manufacturer, tire company, electronics company—every major everything, including the Chicago confection giant Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co., are doing business here.

With 13 million residents, Russia's capital is also the nation's largest metropolitan area. And those Muscovites increasingly are taking to the road, creating a rich emerging market for global car companies, including Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche and Volkswagen.

It's a slugfest reminiscent of what has taken place in the United States over the past three decades. It is why American automobile manufacturers have been struggling to hold on to relatively modest shares of a home market they once dominated, and it's why they are aggressively pursuing new markets, trying to do here and elsewhere what was done to them on their own turf.

And, perhaps, it's really why the grand old United Auto Workers union has fallen on hard times. It's difficult to sell "solidarity forever," even in a socialist state, when consumers are going for the best deal. Buyer self-interest, under the circumstance, trumps ideology.

Consider, for example, this week's subject vehicle, the 2011 Kia Sorento, an all-wheel-drive crossover utility wagon that its South Korean manufacturer, Kia Motors, insists on marketing as a sport-utility model.

Forget the tougher-than-thou sales pitch.

The truth is that the 2011 Sorento, which I drove in Virginia and which goes on sale in the United States in the fall of 2010, is one of the best family haulers offered by any car company anywhere. If it comes in at the projected base price of $22,000, it also will be the overall best deal offered on a crossover utility vehicle—a.k.a. wagon, minivan, SUV—in America.

The 2011 Sorento is being built at Kia's new plant in West Point, Ga. It is a non-union plant. Here's betting that consumers won't care and that they will make the 2011 Sorento a best-seller. Here's why:

- Fit and finish are excellent, equal to anything from putative automotive quality leaders Honda and Toyota.
- Interior ergonomics—convenient placement of dials and gauges, comfort of seats and surroundings—are among best in class.
- Infotainment electronics—satellite radio, Bluetooth wireless phone data link, MP3 player and USB connectivity—are competitive with more expensive models.
- Safety—four-wheel disc brakes (ventilated front/solid rear), electronic stability and traction control, eight air bags—is among best in class.
- It's a driver. I put 620 happy miles on the EX version of the 2011 Sorento, which has a few more spiffs than what is offered on the base model. But it uses the same 3.5-liter, 273-horsepower V-6 engine. Acceleration was smooth, instant, easily highway competent. Yet I still got 27 miles per gallon on the highway—and sometimes two miles better than that when I held strictly to legal speed limits.

So, sitting here in my hotel room in Moscow, where I'm attending an international conference on traffic safety, I'm wondering: Can we have unions today, nationalistic bodies such as the United Auto Workers in the United States and the Canadian Auto Workers—in a world where consumers readily jettison borders and ideology in pursuit of the best deal? Is there anything such as "safe market share," such as the type once enjoyed by GM and Ford in America, in a global economy where a company such as Kia can introduce a winner such as the 2011 Sorento?

## NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

### THE BOTTOM LINE
No union or company is safe in a hotly competitive global market where consumers call the shots. That's especially true in the case of excellent products, such as the 2011 Sorento. My hunch is that no one will look for the union label when looking at that one. Some buyers might be pleased that it's built by Americans and Koreans in Georgia. But most will be wowed by the quality of the product and the affordability of the deal.

### COMPLAINTS
I found none in 620 miles of driving.

### RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It gets good marks in all three.

### BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2011 Kia Sorento is a front-engine, all-wheel-drive crossover wagon with four doors and a rear hatch.

### HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Redesign inside and out yields a much more attractive 2011 Sorento than previous models. The new Sorento, in fact, will be among the best-looking family haulers on the market.

### ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
It comes with a standard 3.5-liter, 24-valve, direct overhead cam V-6 that develops 273 horsepower at 6,300 rotations per minute and 247 foot-pounds of torque at 5,000 RPM. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

### CAPACITIES
There are seats for seven people. Maximum cargo capacity is 73 cubic feet with the rear seats folded. That space shrinks to 9.1 cubic feet with the rear seats up. The fuel tank holds 18 gallons of recommended regular gasoline.

### MILEAGE
You get 19 miles per gallon in the city and 27 mpg on the highway. I discovered that you can get at least 2 gallons more on the highway simply by obeying the speed limits.

### SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock brake protection, electronic stability and traction control, and eight air bags (two front-mounted and two side air bags on front seats plus a total of four front, third-row and rear head air bags).

### PRICE
The 2011 Sorento goes on sale in the fall of 2010. At this writing, there is no official price schedule. Industry speculation is that Kia will introduce the 2011 Sorento at a base price of $22,000, which, if true, would mark a relatively small $545 increase above the base price of the current Sorento—still a pretty good deal considering the engineering and design improvements in the 2011 model.

# Hyundai suspends passenger vehicle sales in Japan

**By KWANG-TAE KIM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Hyundai Motor Co. said Saturday it will pull out of the Japanese passenger vehicle market amid sluggish sales, and instead focus on commercial vehicle sales there.

Hyundai, South Korea's No. 1 automaker, has found it tough going in Japan and sold only about 15,000 passenger cars there since 2001 when it made inroads into the home market of international rival Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker.

"Hyundai Motor has decided to suspend passenger vehicle sales in Japan and will instead allocate its resources to focus on commercial vehicle sales in the country," Hyundai said in a statement.

If the market environment improves in Japan it could resume passenger car sales there, it said. The timing of the pull out will be decided after consulting with dealerships in Japan, said Hyundai spokesman Ki Jin-ho.

Though Hyundai's sales remain sluggish in Japan, Hyundai said its global auto sales in the third quarter surged 41 percent to 824,181 vehicles compared to the year before, helped by increased demand for fuel efficient cars.

Hyundai, which along with affiliate Kia Motors Corp. forms the world's fifth-largest automotive group, saw its worldwide market share increase to 5.5 percent in the third quarter through an emphasis on quality and design.

Both companies have expanded aggressively overseas. Hyundai has factories in China, India, Turkey, the U.S. and the Czech Republic. Kia has plants in China and Slovakia and began production at its first U.S. factory in West Point, Georgia earlier this month.

Hyundai's move is in clear contrast to Toyota, which is making a push into South Korea.

Toyota has been active in South Korea since 2000 when it established a local arm and began selling the luxury Lexus brand the following year. Now the company is offering a broader range of choices to South Korean drivers under the Toyota brand, and aims to sell 500 of those vehicles a month this year and 700 a month in 2010 through five dealerships.

Under the Lexus brand, Toyota sold 6,065 vehicles in South Korea last year, which accounted for nearly 10 percent of the total import market.

In this photo made with a fisheye lens on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009, Hyundai vehicles for sale at a Hyundai dealership in Wexford, Pa. are seen. Hyundai Motor America on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009 said its October U.S. sales rose by nearly half, crediting market share gains and interest in its 2010 model year vehicles.
AP

# Life & Style

# Efron departs from stereotype in new film

By JEN CHANEY
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THE WASHINGTON POST

"High School Musical" heartthrob Zac Efron departs from the stereotypical squeaky-clean teen role in the new indie film "Me and Orson Welles." Efron earlier this month was in Washington to talk up the importance of high school arts education.

It isn't those astonishingly blue eyes that stick in the memory, nor the fact that he earnestly uses the word "neat" in casual conversation. No, of all the things observed during an hour in the presence of Zac Efron, "High School Musical" heartthrob and star of the new indie film "Me and Orson Welles," the one trait that makes the strongest, most lasting impression is this: his impeccable manners.

Leave a napkin on a table? Efron will pick it up and toss it in the garbage. Need to squeeze into an elevator? Efron will make sure there's enough room. And if several people are heading toward a building entrance, the actor will dash ahead just to hold the door on everyone's behalf.

All this may be testament to his solid upbringing—raised in Arroyo Grande, Calif., by middle-class parents—or evidence of canny grooming by Efron's publicists, who earlier this month shepherded the star to Washington to talk up the importance of high school arts education in visits to Capitol Hill, the White House and this newspaper. (Accompanying him in that effort: "Welles" director Richard Linklater, perhaps best known for "Dazed & Confused" and "School of Rock," and co-star Claire Danes, who dealt with her own, decidedly more angsty version of teen stardom 15 years ago in the TV series "My So-Called Life." )

Still, such attention to etiquette is one clue that the 22-year-old Efron has made the leap from squeaky-clean singing teen to considerate, mature adult. With the new film, set in 1937, when Welles was mounting his version of "Julius Caesar" at New York's Mercury Theatre, Efron seems to be carefully steering his career toward meatier roles and away from "High School Musical," the unstoppably cheery Disney phenomenon that turned him into every tweeny-bopper's dream date.

But of course, don't expect him to come right out and say that.

For example, when asked what appealed to him about playing Richard Samuels, the teen in "Orson Welles" whose eyes are opened after a week of working on a Broadway production with the temperamental Welles and his manic troupe, Efron stops and starts before finally answering.

> **It wasn't another musical. It was definitely a step forward and a risk, and something that I wasn't even expecting of myself at the time. …It would be kind of a curveball.**

"It was the only opportunity that I had at the time that was ... I don't know, it didn't feel like ..." He pauses again.

"It wasn't another musical," he finally says. "It was definitely a step forward in my opinion, and a risk, and something that I wasn't even expecting of myself at the time, so I knew no one else would be. It would be kind of a curveball."

True, the film again features Efron as a high schooler who acts and sings (FYI for the "HSM"-obsessed: the crooning is brief), but the curveballs come from the sophistication of the material.

Richard has an affair with Welles' secretary, an older and far more worldly, nakedly ambitious woman (Danes, who is, in real life, 30). He also recites a lot of Shakespeare and deals with the prospect of getting fired, all of which gives Efron the opportunity to delve into more dramatic territory. Particularly in the scenes when Richard goes head-to-head with Welles, played with convincing gusto by newcomer Christian McKay, one can see Efron beginning to flex acting muscles that perhaps didn't get stretched fully when, say, he was competing against Sharpay for the lead in the East High School play.

Linklater says he cast Efron for one simple reason: "Less than 20 seconds after meeting him, I was like, this is (Richard)."

But the filmmaker, Danes and Efron agree that in some cases, it can be a challenge for an actor to land truly adult roles once he becomes strongly associated with tween-and-teen fare.

"I kind of became the poster girl for teen angst, which is a kind of crass way of saying it," Danes recalls of her gig as the brooding Angela Chase on "My So-Called Life."

"But the teen roles that I was playing, they were bright and they were atypical. There was room there for that particular kind of character to mature, so I didn't face a great amount of resistance in that respect. But I think everybody has to fight to become a diverse artist because people are inclined to associate you with one thing or are a little unnerved by your daring to do something."

"I'd say the challenge right now is finding specifically what to try and work on next," Efron adds. "It's not in terms of people being close-minded, really, to be honest. Maybe it was for a little while. But I was on the complete opposite end of the spectrum from where (Danes) started, in 'High School Musical.' Like (she) said, everything that you want to do and everything that I aspire to do as an artist is always that project that's just out of reach."

There is a pivotal scene in "Me and Orson Welles" when Efron's character finally blows up at his egocentric director for constantly and insensitively referring to him as Junior. It seems like a moment that must resonate with Efron, but he says it didn't really, perhaps because he would never talk to an authority figure that way.

The polite young man has, it seems, already learned an important lesson: that you always win more respect by holding the door open for other people instead of screaming about the few who won't let you in.

## BEST SELLERS

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### Nonfiction

1. ***Open***, by Andre Agassi (Knopf: $28.95) The tennis star's memoir and personal odyssey of a lost childhood, drug use and comebacks.
2. ***What the Dog Saw***, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99) The author's writings of everyday and extraordinary people.
3. ***Have a Little Faith***, by Mitch Albom (Hyperion: $23.99) Albom's observations of a rabbi and a pastor on an eight-year journey of faith.
4. ***Eating Animals***, by Jonathan Safran Foer (Little, Brown: $25.99) An examination of factory farming.
5. ***Lit***, by Mary Karr (Harper: $25.99) The author's descent into alcoholism and recovery.
6. ***SuperFreakonomics***, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (William Morrow: $29.99) More funny, informative facts and questions to ponder.
7. ***Manhood for Amateurs***, by Michael Chabon (Harper: $26.99) A collection of autobiographical essays reflecting on what it means to be a man and father.
8. ***Too Big to Fail***, by Andrew Ross Sorkin (Viking: $32.95) A behind-the-scenes account of the players behind America's financial crisis.
9. ***Where Men Win Glory***, by Jon Krakauer (Doubleday: $27.95) A chronicle of Pat Tillman, the NFL star turned Army Ranger whose death in Afghanistan stunned the power structure.
10. ***It's Your Time***, by Joel Osteen (Free Press: $25) Finding inspiration and faith during difficult times.

### Fiction

1. ***The Help***, by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: $24.95) The lives of a maid, a cook and a college graduate become intertwined as they change a Mississippi town.
2. ***Under the Dome***, by Stephen King (Scribner: $35) A ragtag cast of characters fight to survive in their small Maine town inexplicably surrounded by an invisible force field.
3. ***The Lacuna***, by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $26.99) A writer's escapades encompassing 1930s Mexican artist communities and Cold War America.
4. ***The Lost Symbol,*** by Dan Brown (Doubleday: $25.99) Harvard professor Robert Langdon uses his symbology skills to find a missing Freemason in Washington, D.C.
5. ***Wolf Hall***, by Hilary Mantel (Henry Holt: $27) The rise of Henry VIII's adviser Thomas Cromwell.
6. ***Nine Dragons***, by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown : $27.99) A Los Angeles Police Department detective travels to Hong Kong to solve the murder of a Chinese immigrant.
7. ***Ford County***, by John Grisham (Doubleday: $24) A collection of short stories set in the same locale as A Time to Kill.
8. ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid***: ***Dog Days***, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: $13.95) Greg desires to spend summer vacation indoors despite his mother's wishes for outdoor family fun.
9. ***True Blue***, by David Baldacci (Grand Central: $27.99) After being framed for a crime, a cop must break a case to prove worthy of the badge again.
10. ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw***, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: $12.95) Greg's dad enlists him in sports to toughen him up.

# Susan Boyle's debut album tops Britain's charts

**LONDON** (AP)—In the contest, she finished second. But on the charts, she's number one.

Susan Boyle's debut record, "I Dreamed A Dream," entered the British album chart in the top spot Sunday. The 48-year-old Scottish songstress famously finished second on "Britain's Got Talent," but the variety show launched a career that has seen her win success on both sides of the Atlantic.

According to the Official Charts Company, which tracks music sales in Britain, the more than 410,000 copies of "I Dreamed a Dream" sold since its release Nov. 23 make it the fastest selling album so far this year, and are the largest first-week sales for a debut album in U.K. chart history.

Millions of people have seen an online clip of Boyle auditioning for the judges. Wearing a somewhat dowdy frock and with a halo of untidy hair, Boyle told judge and producer Simon Cowell that her dream was to be a professional singer. "I've never been given the chance before, but here's hoping it'll change," she said then.

AP

British singer Susan Boyle displays a copy of her CD, at the front door of her house in Blackburn, Scotland, Saturday Nov. 28, 2009.

She sang "I Dreamed a Dream," from Les Miserables, and her soaring vocals earned a smile and raised eyebrows from Cowell—and a standing ovation from the audience.

"In 'Britain's Got Talent' she opened her mouth and the world fell in love with her, which is why her album has been the fastest selling of any woman making her debut," Cowell said. "She's amazing."

Since the show—in which she eventually finished second to a dynamic dance troupe called "Diversity"—Boyle has become one of the more recognizable faces of British music, both at home and abroad.

Though she was taken aback at first by her fame, Boyle has since had a glamorous makeover, been photographed by an upscale fashion magazine, and been profiled for "NBC's People of the Year" special in the United States. In Britain, she's appeared as a special guest on a wildly popular talent show, "The X Factor."

"I accept now that my life will never be the same. And I don't want it to end," Boyle told Matt Lauer on the special, according to an NBC transcript.

Of her number one album, Boyle said only, "it's fantastic" in a statement released by her record company.

"Everyone expected this to be a big record, but not as big as this," said Martin Talbot, managing director of the Official Charts Company. Of the more than 410,000 copies—both physical and digital—sold in Britain, he said the majority of buyers purchased the CD. In the United States, Amazon Music it was the largest pre-order in the company's history.

Boyle's cover of the Rolling Stones classic "Wild Horses" debuted in the ninth spot on Britain's singles chart.

Gennaro Castaldo, spokesman for the HMV music store company, said Boyle's record could challenge for the top spot at Christmas—a highly coveted position in Britain's showbiz world.

He said Boyle's frequent appearances in Britain's newspapers likely helped boost her sales, along with her reality television background. Shows like "Britain's Got Talent" and "The X Factor"—which produced last week's chart-topper, Leona Lewis—help viewers bond with artists, he said. Fans follow the artist's career from the start, "so when the album comes out, quite a few of them will go out and buy the album, too," Castaldo said.

# Poll: Limbaugh is most influential conservative

**NEW YORK** (AP)—By a wide margin, Americans consider Rush Limbaugh the nation's most influential conservative voice.

Those are the results of a poll conducted by "60 Minutes" and Vanity Fair magazine and issued Sunday. The radio host was picked by 26 percent of those who responded, followed by Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck at 11 percent. Actual politicians—former Vice President Dick Cheney and former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin—were the choice of 10 percent each.

Asked to choose from among seven presidents, Americans tapped John F. Kennedy as the one they'd like to see added to Mount Rushmore. Kennedy polled 29 percent, with Ronald Reagan second at 20 percent.

With all the talk on the news about whether Americans should have the choice of a government-run health insurance plan in any health care reform, only 26 percent of those who responded said they felt confident explaining the "public option" to someone who didn't know about it.

Half of Americans chose laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as a ceremony in which they'd most like to participate. That swamped the other choices: lighting the Olympic torch, tossing the coin to open a Super Bowl, starting the race at the Indianapolis 500, ringing the opening bell at the stock exchange and throwing out the first pitch at the World Series.

# Senators: Take action against White House crashers

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Two senators say authorities ought to pursue criminal charges against the Virginia couple who crashed last week's state dinner at the White House.

Democrat Evan Bayh of Indiana and Republican Jon Kyl of Arizona say such behavior should be strongly discouraged.

Authorities say Michaele (mih-KEL') and Tareq Salahi (TAH'-rehk sah-LAH'-hee) were allowed into the White House dinner Tuesday night even though they were not on the guest list. The Secret Service has apologized for the breakdown in security, and an investigation into possible criminal behavior is ongoing.

Bayh says it's no laughing matter that two people could get so close to President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden without being cleared.

Bayh and Kyl appeared on "Fox News Sunday."


Message of Appreciation

We, the family of our beloved

*Elena "Irene" Takai Camacho,*

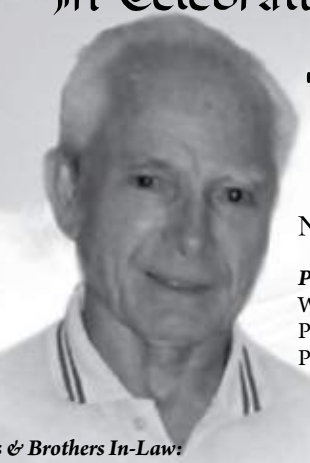
would like to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to families and friends for your love and endless support during our time of loss.

Thank you for all your prayers during morning Masses, and day of funeral. Your kindness will always be remembered in our hearts.

**Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase**



In Celebration of His New Life



**†Edward Briggimann Flores**

Affectionately known as *"EDDIE"*

of Saipan, was called to his Eternal Life on November 27, 2009 (Friday) at the age of 75.

***Predeceased by***
Wife: Maximina Reyes Flores
Parents: Joaquin Aguon Flores & Yerma Briggimann
Parents In-Law: Vicente Cruz Reyes & Maria Guzman San Nicolas

***Sisters & Brothers In-Law:***
†Dolores & †Manuel Reyes, †Teresa Flores, †Federico Francisco& †Rosalia Flores, †Angelina & †Antonio Camacho & †Vicente Borja, †Maria & †Francisco Borja, †Elizabeth & †Manuel Camacho, †Victoria Flores, †Benjamin & †Magdalena Flores, †Leonardo Flores, †Cecilia & †Jesus Boyer

***Brothers & Sisters In-Law:***
†Joaquin & †Juana Reyes, †Benbinido & †Vicenta Reyes, †Prudencio & †Delgadina Reyes, †Jose & †Catalina Reyes, †Mariano & †Beatrice Reyes, †Luis & †Antonia Reyes, †Ursula Reyes, †Estefania & †Tobias Muna, †Ana R & Jose Castro, †Remedio R. & †Ignatio Delacruz

***His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:***

***Children & Families :*** Lydia F. & Arthur Santos & Children
Edwin F. & Ellen Barcinas & Children
Rebecca F. & Henry Pangelinan & Children
Edward F. & Maryann Agulto & Children
Fermin F. & Sophie Dela Cruz & Children
Alfred F. & Elihsa Wenio & Children
Janet F. & Juan Torres & Children
Anthony F. & Ramona Sablan & Children

***Reared Son & Family :*** James P. & Maryann P. Reyes & Children

***Sisters & Brothers In-Law :*** Estefania F. & +Vicente Camacho
Fermin F. & Rosalia Borja
Augustin F. & Carmen Tudela
Susana Reyes & +Mariano Mendiola
Magdelena F. & Vicente Santos
Baldobino F. & Andresina Torres & Bessie
Rosa Flores
Isabel F. & Maximo Tudela
Marino Flores
Joaquin F. & Rosita Perez

***Brothers & In-Laws :*** Donicio & Rosa Reyes
+Alfonso & Anuncia Reyes

He is additionally survived by numerous Great Grand Children, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and God-children

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00am and nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm at San Jose Church in Oleai. On Saturday, December 05, 2009, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:30am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers
Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

**Lydia, Edwin, Rebecca, Edward, Fermin, Alfred, Janet, Anthony & Family**

# 'New Moon' keeps top box office spot with $42.5M

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Vampires and werewolves continued to howl at the box office with a $42.5 million weekend for "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

Summit Entertainment's "Twilight" sequel remained No. 1 over what proved a record Thanksgiving weekend for Hollywood. But "New Moon" was nearly blindsided for the top spot by a real-life football drama.

"The Blind Side" had a great second weekend with $40.1 million coming in at No. 2 just behind "New Moon." Released by Warner Bros., the inspirational story of Baltimore Ravens tackle Michael Oher stars Sandra Bullock as a woman whose wealthy family takes in the homeless teen and enrolls him in private school.

The two movies propelled Hollywood to record revenues over the five-day Thanksgiving period. Wednesday-to-Sunday receipts came in at an estimated $275 million, according to Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

1. "**The Twilight Saga**: New Moon," $42.5 million.
2. "**The Blind Side,**" $40.1 million.
3. "**2012**," $18 million.
4. "**Old Dogs**," $16.8 million.
5. "**Disney's A Christmas Carol**," $16 million.
6. "**Ninja Assassin,**" $13.1 million.
7. "**Planet 51**," $10.2 million.
8. "**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By Sapphire,**" $7.1 million.
9. "**Fantastic Mr. Fox**," $7 million.
10. "**The Men Who Stare at Goats**," $1.5 million.

That surpassed the previous Thanksgiving record of $244.4 million set in 2000, when "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Unbreakable" topped the box office.

With 2009 domestic revenues at $9.5 billion, Hollywood is on the verge of breaking the record of $9.7 billion set in 2007. Studios have a month of prime holiday business ahead, so the industry should easily top the $10 billion mark domestically for the first time.

"We're going to buzz past it," Dergarabedian said.

New wide releases had so-so results this weekend. Disney's family comedy "Old Dogs," starring Robin Williams and John Travolta as single guys forced to mind 7-year-old twins one of them never knew he had fathered, came in at No. 4 with $16.8 million for the three-day weekend and $24.1 million since opening Wednesday.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Concorde, Kristen Stewart, left, and Taylor Lautner are shown in a scene from, "The Twilight Saga: New Moon."

The Warner Bros. action tale "Ninja Assassin" opened at No. 6 with $13.1 million over the weekend and $21 million since Wednesday. The movie features Korean pop star Rain and Naomie Harris in a thriller about a hit man on the run from his assassination clan.

"Fantastic Mr. Fox," the 20th Century Fox animated comedy with a voice cast led by George Clooney, expanded to nationwide release and pulled in $7 million to finish at No. 9.

"New Moon" raised its domestic total to $230.7 million after just 10 days. That's nearly $40 million more than the first movie, last year's "Twilight," took in during its entire 20-week run. The movie's worldwide gross stands at $473.7 million.

The "Twilight" movies star Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner in an adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's books about teen heartache among a school girl, a vampire and a werewolf.

"New Moon" is approaching numbers achieved by another teen fantasy sensation, the "Harry Potter" films, which had domestic totals ranging from $250 million to $317 million.

"We always hesitated to compare ourselves to `Harry Potter,' but the numbers do speak for themselves," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Summit.

While the weekend haul for "New Moon" dropped a steep 70 percent from the movie's $142.8 million opening, "The Blind Side" actually went up 18 percent from its $34.1 million first weekend. Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., said the movie is on track to top $200 million.

"The Blind Side" is drawing equal audiences among men and women and finding fans from ages 8 to 80, said Andrew Kosove, co-founder and co-chief executive officer of Alcon Entertainment, which produced the film.

"Even though Michael Oher is a football player, and football is a part of the story, the movie is really not a sports movie. It's a family movie," Kosove said.

"The Blind Side" lifted its 10-day total to $100.3 million and has generated Academy Awards buzz for Bullock.

In limited release, the Weinstein Co. apocalyptic drama "The Road" opened strongly with a $1.5 million weekend and $2 million since opening Wednesday. Adapted from Cormac McCarthy's novel, the film stars Viggo Mortensen as a father struggling to survive with his young son in the wasteland of America after an unspecified catastrophe.

Disney's animated musical "The Princess and the Frog" did huge business, debuting in two theaters with $712,000 over the weekend and $1.1 million since Wednesday. Updating the Brothers Grimm fairy tale "The Frog Prince" to jazzy New Orleans in the 1920s, the film expands nationwide Dec. 11.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.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Old Dogs

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:15 | 9:30 |
| Sunday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:15 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:25 | 7:15 | |

John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Two best friends—one unlucky-in-love divorcee and the other a fun-loving bachelor—have their lives turned upside down when they're unexpectedly charged with the care of 7-year-old twins while on the verge of the biggest business deal of their lives. The not-so-kid-savvy bachelors stumble in their efforts to take care of the twins, leading to one debacle after another, and perhaps to a new-found understanding of what's really important in life.

Ninja Assassin

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:10 | 4:30 | 7:10 | 9:40 |
| Sunday | 1:10 | 4:30 | 7:10 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:30 | 7:10 | |

Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R

Synopsis
Raizo is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. But haunted by the merciless execution of his friend by the Clan, Raizo breaks free from them...and vanishes. Now he waits, preparing to exact his revenge. In Berlin, Europol agent Mika Coretti has stumbled upon a money trail linking several political murders to an underground network of untraceable assassins from the Far East.

Paranormal Activity

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:20 | 4:10 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Sunday | 1:20 | 4:10 | 7:30 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:10 | 7:30 | |

Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
After a young, middle class couple moves into what seems like a typical suburban "starter" tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be demonic, but is certainly most active in the middle of the night. Especially when they sleep. Or try to.

★ ★ ★

Twilight Saga: New Moon

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:45 |
| Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

2012

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | 10:10 |
| Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | |

John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:30 | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Sunday | 1:30 | 4:20 | 7:20 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | |

Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday & Saturday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:25 | 10:00 |
| Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:25 | |
| Monday & Tuesday | | 4:15 | 7:25 | |

Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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# Jay Leno losing his audience to DVR machines

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Much of the prime-time audience lost to NBC when Jay Leno moved into prime-time has gone not to its rivals but the digital video recorder.

Rival network executives seemed almost giddy at the possibilities last spring after NBC announced Leno would do a comedy show five nights a week at 10 p.m. There will be more viewers available "for people who put on great dramas," said Leslie Moonves, CBS chief executive, "and that's what we do."

It hasn't quite worked out that way.

NBC's audience at that hour is down sharply, as many predicted. CBS is up 6 percent over last season, primarily because it moved the hit series "The Mentalist" into that slot; on three of the five nights, its audience is down. ABC is also down slightly at that hour, and it wasn't exactly overwhelmed with hits last year, either.

With one-third of American TV households now equipped with DVRs like TiVo, the 10 p.m. hour is emerging as a popular time for people to catch up on what they missed earlier in the evening, or earlier in the week.

AP

In this March 19, 2009 file photo, host Jay Leno is shown on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" in Burbank, Calif.

Here's some math: NBC has lost an average of 1.8 household ratings points at the 10 p.m. hour compared to fall 2008, according to the Nielsen Co. At the same time, DVR usage—which is also measured by Nielsen—is up by 1.4 points in that hour.

"The DVR phenomenon is a little bit higher than we thought," said David Poltrack, CBS' chief research executive.

For example, many people watch CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" Thursdays at 9, tape ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" at the same time, then watch the medical soap an hour later, he said. They may tape "The Mentalist" (Thursday at 10) for later viewing. One casualty of growing DVR usage is that Friday nights, home of "Medium" and "Ugly Betty," are becoming a TV wasteland because so many people are catching up on programs they missed during the week.

DVR playback is important for programs, yet isn't quite as valuable a commodity for the networks since viewers have the option to fast-forward through commercials.

"You'd rather have a live viewer than a playback viewer," Poltrack said, "but you'd rather have a playback viewer than nothing at all."

NBC will settle for any new viewers it can get for Leno. Here's how rough the neighborhood is in prime-time: Leno was the universally hailed king of late-night TV this spring and is now a punching bag, with roughly the same number of people watching him. But the standards are higher earlier in the night.

Leno has been deluged with stories judging NBC's grand experiment a failure, and questioning when the network will pull the plug.

# Students get schooled on hip-hop at Minn. college

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** (AP)—DJ Freddy Fresh slaps a vinyl record on the turntable, cues it up and tells a student, "Remember, the top of the note was there, right? Grab it."

The student places his hand on the disc. Freddy Fresh sets the tonearm down on a record rotating on a second turntable. He starts the first record spinning as a percolating beat fills the classroom, then twiddles some knobs.

"Bing, bing, boom. There it is," Freddy Fresh says while showing the student the precise beat where to stop the platter. "Let's hear it. Scratch a little so we can hear the top of it."

The student "scratches" the record, moving his left hand back and forth, then lets the disc go.

"Perfect," Freddy Fresh declares.

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2009 photo, DJ Freddy Fresh, left, teaches student Toyosi Duroshola the art of spinning records during a hip hop class at the McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minn.

A professional DJ since 1992, Freddy Fresh (real name Fredrick Schmid) is among the new teachers brought in by McNally Smith College of Music for a hip-hop studies program that school officials say is the first in the nation.

The private downtown St. Paul college—where rapper-actor Ice Cube already funds a scholarship for music technology studies—began the hip-hop program in September and hopes the first students, after completing a recorded project and a live performance, get their diploma certificates at commencement next summer.

Even though hip-hop is only 30 years old, McNally Smith officials say the urban culture of rap has become a dominating commercial force and deserves serious study. Students say they enjoy the chance to learn from established rappers and DJs.

"What I like the most about it is there are actual artists teaching us, as opposed to just some guy coming in a suit and tie and being like, 'This is what hip-hop is,'" said student Tim Wagner, 19, who came to McNally Smith to learn studio production and polish his MC skills.

"They know what they're talking about because they've done it."

College classes on the language of hip-hop or how to work turntables are not new. Berklee College of Music in Boston held its annual Business of Hip-Hop Symposium in October and has had visits from pioneering hip-hop DJ Grandmaster Flash and rapper Chuck D of Public Enemy, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison recently hosted a semester-long fall lecture series on hip-hop. Marcyliena Morgan, a professor at Harvard University, founded The Hiphop Archive in 2002.

But McNally Smith is offering a full, 45-credit, three-semester hip-hop program. Courses include "Deejay Techniques," "Diaspora of African Music" and "The Language of Rap and Spoken Word III." The school hopes that hip-hop graduates will then enter McNally Smith's two- or four-year programs, where those students can apply some of their credits, said Cliff Wittstruck, dean of academic affairs.

# E-mail and a view: Polanski heads for house arrest

**GSTAAD, Switzerland** (AP)—Roman Polanski is expected to trade the confines of a Swiss jail this week for house arrest in a luxury chalet with a view of the Alps, where he will await a Swiss decision whether to extradite him to the United States.

His three-story stucco and wood home on the edge of Gstaad has its own garden. He'll be allowed to host parties. A local official has said he may move to protect the film director from the press.

The biggest drawback for Polanski will be that he will be unable to leave the 1,800-square-meter (19,000-square-foot) property without losing $4.5 million in bail.

"He will have no prison regime," said Justice Ministry spokesman Falco Galli. "He is completely free to determine his daily schedule. It's also up to him to get in food and other supplies."

Swiss officials say they still think there is a high risk Polanski will try to flee, even though he will be wearing an electronic monitoring device that will detect any attempt to leave the property.

The arrival of the bail money in Switzerland appeared to be the main remaining obstacle to the transfer from prison, which could happen as soon as Monday, according to Galli.

No special police protection will be provided, either to make sure Polanski remains or to keep spectators and others away, Galli said. He said Polanski could call the local police or a security firm if he feels threatened.

Aldo Kropf, president of the Saanen-Gstaad community, told newspapers he didn't rule out finding a way to remove reporters if neighbors complain. Kropf was quoted by the weekly SonntagsZeitung as saying the local government might stop the public from using the street leading to the Polanski house.

AP

The chalet named "Milky Way" of film director Roman Polanski, is seen in Gstaad, Switzerland, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009.

A security firm visited the chalet Saturday and made last-minute preparations for the 76-year-old film director's arrival. Swiss authorities have said he could be there several weeks before a decision is made on the extradition.

Galli said Polanski will have to pay the 2,000 Swiss franc ($2,000) installation fee and the 200 franc monthly maintenance cost.

"Should Polanski leave his house or remove the monitoring band, an alarm will be set off," he said. The Swiss government will confiscate the bail if he leaves the property.

Authorities require that the bracelet be working before Polanski is moved to the chalet. Until then, Polanski remains in a jail outside Zurich, Galli said. Officials declined to say how they would transfer Polanski.

Don Beyer, U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, was quoted by the weekly SonntagsBlick as saying that he advised Polanski to go to the United States on his own to serve whatever sentence he faces.

"Then he can get everything behind him in the Los Angeles court," said Beyer.

Galli said Polanski will be able to go outside to check the mail or entertain guests in the garden and will be able to telephone and send e-mails, work on his films and have parties. Phone conversations will not be monitored.

The director has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

He is wanted in the United States for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. Authorities in Los Angeles want him sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

Polanski was initially accused of raping the girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. He was indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molestation and sodomy, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sent him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. The evaluator released Polanski after 42 days, but the judge said he was going to send him back to serve out the 90 days.

# Dogs' leftovers should go home with their owners

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY**: You advised "Pooped Out in North Carolina" (Sept. 21) that as long as dog doo-doo is securely sealed in a bag, you saw no harm in putting it in a stranger's garbage can.

While I agree in principle, as a homeowner who is a frequent recipient of foreign feces, there is a practical issue that you may not have foreseen. Our garbage collectors will not dispose of small bags of dog poop; they will only take trash bags of the larger size one would expect to contain household waste.

The result is that after our trash is taken, we're left with several bags of strangers' dog waste in the bottom of the can. My wife and I have to pull these bags out and add them to larger bags of garbage. Otherwise, they'll remain at the bottom of the can indefinitely.

So while putting one's dog droppings in a stranger's trash may appear to be harmless, it may also have consequences you didn't consider. I would suggest that pet owners err on the side of taking it home with them. And if you don't want to carry it for 15 minutes, don't walk your dog 15 minutes from your house.

FREQUENT FECES FINDER

**DEAR F.F.F.: I'm sorry to say my advice to "Pooped" landed ME in the doghouse. Read on:**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: You should have told "Pooped" to check the local laws first. In my community, if you're caught putting your trash in someone else's container, you are made to clean it out, fined and sometimes given jail time. I'm sure "Pooped" would not appreciate being sent to jail on account of his dog's delivery.

TOM IN REED CITY, MICH.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: A lot depends on how the trash is collected. My trash collector and the nearby city collectors just come and pull the bags out of the cans. That little baggie, if deposited in my trash can, would either be knocked out on the ground or fall to the bottom of my trash can. Neither is acceptable.

On the other hand, some of my neighbors use a trash service that utilizes a truck with a mechanical arm that turns the cans upside down and empties them into the truck. In a case like that, I don't see what difference it makes whose can it's "deposited" in.

CONNIE IN PARIS, TENN.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I walk my dogs through the neighborhood and, as a responsible pet owner, I clean up after them. Often, however, I wonder why I bother. Many dogs here run loose and leave their messes wherever they please with no one to clean up after them. I think that neighbors should thank pet owners who do clean up—no matter where they deposit the doo-doo.

DOG WALKER IN LAYTON, UTAH

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: When we walk our dog, we always carry a bag. I have seen others "scoop" up after their dog and then toss it under the bushes. Carry it home, folks! Or, as the gentleman did, place it in a trash container. If it's on the curb, it's public property.

SCOOPER IN FLORIDA

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: We walk our dogs four times a day and place their carefully bagged "deposits" only in the trash at our house. We do this for two reasons: One, people can be territorial about their refuse containers and resent any "unauthorized" garbage placed there. Two, many homeowners hate finding animal waste on their property or in their trash.

Abby, please rethink your reply to "Pooped Out." He sounds lazy. His wife, family and co-workers, on the other hand, appear to be responsible and considerate.

PICKER-UPPER IN CALIFORNIA

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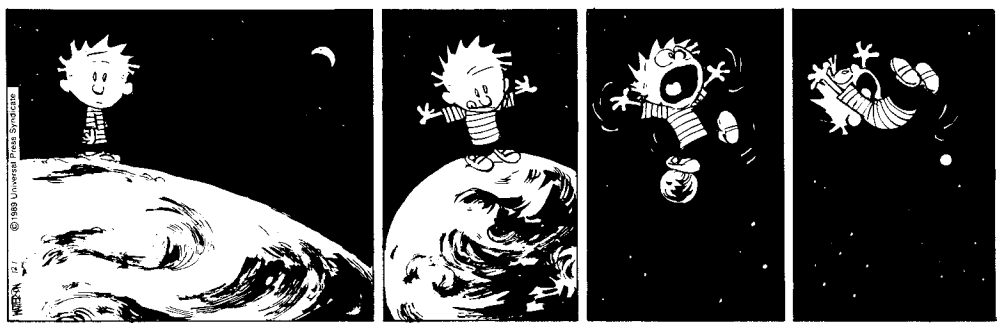
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



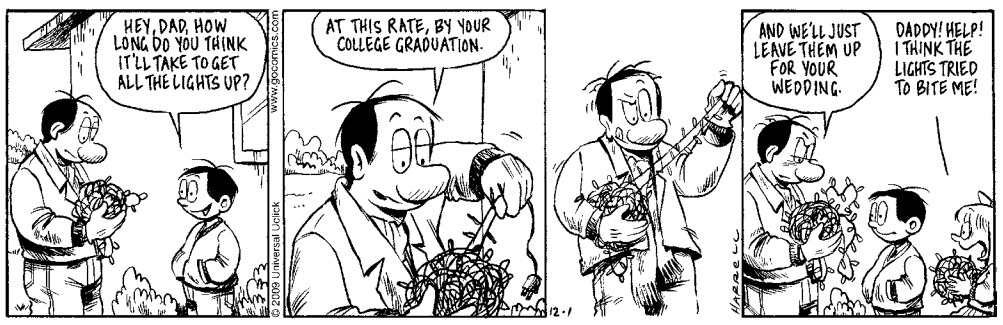

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SANTA KNOWS WHEN YOU'VE BEEN GOOD
JIM DAVIS 12-1
www.garfield.com
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
AND HE KNOWS WHEN YOU'VE BEEN ROLLING AROUND IN STUFF
ROWR ROWR ROWRRRR
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, DAD, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE TO GET ALL THE LIGHTS UP?
AT THIS RATE, BY YOUR COLLEGE GRADUATION.
AND WE'LL JUST LEAVE THEM UP FOR YOUR WEDDING.
DADDY! HELP! I THINK THE LIGHTS TRIED TO BITE ME!
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www.gocomics.com
12-1

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LEAVE ME ALONE.
HA HA... PLAYING HARD TO GET, HUH? I KNOW ALL ABOUT REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY.
DON'T DROP DEAD.
GlenMcCoy
www.gocomics.com
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## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

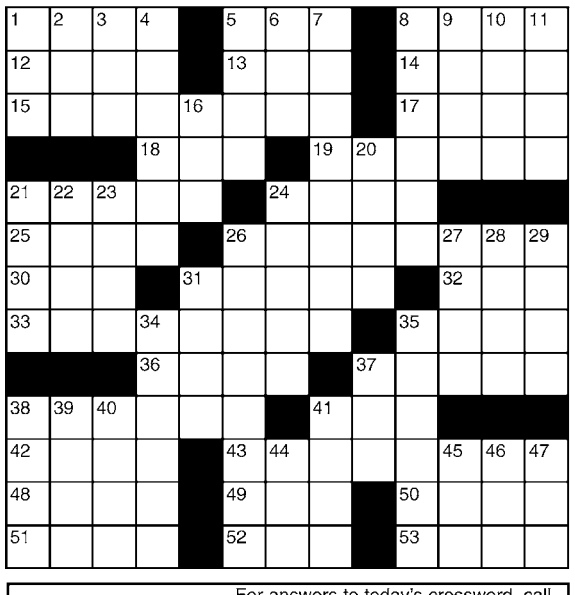
**ACROSS**
1 Platter
5 Upper limb
8 — mater
12 Concept
13 Kiwi's bygone kin
14 Bathday cake?
15 Petula Clark classic
17 Dorothy's destination
18 Acorn maker
19 Window in a roof
21 Take as one's own
24 Pop flavor
25 Mr. Crockett
26 Distinguishing trait
30 Corroded
31 Old Aegean region
32 Greet the villain
33 Price reduction
35 Chorus member
36 "The Audacity of —"
37 Sweater type
38 Historical records
41 Feedbag tidbit
42 Volume
43 City building
48 Needle case
49 Leading lady?
50 Falco or Adams
51 Lairs
52 Sprinted
53 Run into

**DOWN**
1 Accomplished
2 Altar affirmative
3 Stitch
4 Four-poster feature
5 Out of control
6 Tier
7 Guitar's cousin
8 Religious retreat
9 Weaver's apparatus
10 Jerry Herman heroine
11 Unoriginal one
16 Make lace
20 Earthen pot
21 Partner of 49-Across
22 Information
23 Finished
24 "— talk?"
26 Shaq or Kobe, e.g.
27 Competent
28 Campus mil. program
29 Eccentric one
31 Pedestal occupant
34 Light-colored uniforms
35 Country song?
37 Forefront
38 Sleeping
39 Memorandum
40 Common subject?
41 Actor Clive
44 Eggs
45 Citric cooler
46 Tell a tale
47 Allow

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | P | ■ | A | B | A | C | A | ■ | P | E | A |
| D | A | S | ■ | S | E | N | O | R | ■ | R | U | M |
| Q | U | I | C | K | L | I | M | E | ■ | I | R | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | F | L | ■ | M | O | R | M | O | N |
| E | M | P | L | O | Y | ■ | A | L | O | E | ■ | ■ |
| V | I | A | ■ | R | U | G | ■ | E | A | T | E | R |
| E | R | N | S | ■ | P | O | D | ■ | D | I | M | E |
| N | A | T | A | L | ■ | D | E | F | ■ | M | I | S |
| ■ | ■ | O | G | E | E | ■ | R | O | B | E | R | T |
| D | A | M | S | E | L | ■ | I | R | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| I | I | I | ■ | W | I | N | D | C | H | I | M | E |
| A | R | M | ■ | A | T | R | E | E | ■ | V | O | L |
| L | Y | E | ■ | Y | E | A | R | S | ■ | Y | A | M |

Yesterday's answer 12-1



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Brad Delson, 32; Nestor Carbonell, 42; Bette Midler, 64; Woody Allen, 74

**Happy Birthday**: Don't give in to pressure this year. Keep things simple and don't allow temptation to cost you a bundle emotionally or financially. Set a budget to ensure a safe and worry-free year. Handle sudden and unexpected changes with discretion. Don't spend irresponsibly in the year ahead. Your numbers are 3, 8, 17, 21, 28, 33, 47

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Rethink your strategy and make inquiries that help you chose the right course of action. You can obtain goals that were not accomplished in the past. Success is just around the corner. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): T he people you have to deal with professionally and personally will test and challenge you. Listen carefully to what's required before you put your time and effort into what's being asked of you. Don't feel guilty if you don't want to participate. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Don't take chances when it comes to getting things done and dealing with others. Changing your mind will lead to conflicts you can do without. Don't lead someone on when you have no intention of accommodating the requests being made. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Your intuitive insight will enable you to choose what will work best for you. You will be able to see the possibilities that exist if you make some changes. Love and romance will be beckoning you. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): It's the generosity and kindness you offer the underdog that will help you realize what's truly important to you. Socializing with people you don't know well will bring you the greatest returns and lead to new friendships. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting together with old friends will give you a better perspective on your present situation. Greater personal growth can be expected from the experiences you engage in now. A much clearer view of what's ahead will develop. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have to think matters through carefully, especially when they have to do with your financial future or position. You have to find out first hand before making a promise or signing up for something. Rely on your own resources. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone who is withholding information or who is difficult to deal with will confuse you if you are too gullible. Keep your distance in order to finish what you started so you don't disappoint someone who is depending on you. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Temptation will set in, causing you to get involved in something that may be dubious. Consider how the choices you make will alter your future as well as the future of the people close to you. Don't get involved in something questionable. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Combine business with pleasure and you will leave a lasting impression. You will discover the importance of following through with your plans and enjoying what you do. Get in touch with someone from your past. ✪✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep the peace, no matter how hard it is. If you overreact or do things that someone doesn't like, you will pay dearly for your lack of consideration. Exaggeration will lead to conflicts. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't brag. Someone you know will be jealous and cause problems. You will have to defend yourself in order to save your reputation. A cash payout is heading your way—be quiet about your good fortune if you want to hang onto it. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are quick-witted and fast to make a decision. You are determined and dedicated to your own cause and can easily get others to follow you.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 5 | | 3 | 6 | | 7 |
| | 6 | | | | | | 9 | |
| 5 | | 1 | | | 8 | 4 | | |
| 7 | | 3 | | | | | | 8 |
| | | | | 6 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| | | 9 | 7 | | | 5 | | 3 |
| | 3 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 1 | | 4 | 8 | | 9 | | | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★ 11/30

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**IS IT GUARANTEED?** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | C | S | G | P | U | R | C | H | A | S | E | C | E |
| C | R | R | O | T | N | R | L | S | L | E | B | A | L | V |
| E | O | R | O | V | C | I | T | N | E | H | T | U | A | O |
| R | T | M | A | D | E | E | D | L | A | G | E | L | I | R |
| T | E | Y | M | N | U | N | F | N | E | M | I | T | M | P |
| I | C | P | T | I | G | C | A | E | I | D | E | F | R | P |
| F | T | S | A | I | T | E | T | N | D | B | I | I | R | A |
| I | I | R | R | I | R | M | M | R | T | N | C | I | E | Y |
| E | O | E | O | E | R | U | E | E | A | E | G | P | C | M |
| D | N | M | B | F | P | I | C | N | N | H | U | O | E | E |
| O | D | O | A | N | L | A | C | E | T | T | M | H | I | N |
| I | I | T | L | P | (H) | I | P | S | S | P | R | S | P | T |
| R | L | S | P | (S) | A | D | A | M | A | G | E | U | T | D |
| E | O | U | (A) | L | S | E | C | N | A | R | U | S | S | A |
| P | S | (C) | M | O | N | E | Y | S | U | P | P | O | R | T |

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**Yesterday's Answer: Catwalk**

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Saipan Tribune

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ROUGH

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| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | **$25** |
| • 5-Liner | **$35** |
| • 3-Liner with picture | **$45** |
| • 5-Liner with picture | **$55** |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# Nets match worst start with loss to Lakers

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The New Jersey Nets matched the worst start to an NBA season with their 17th straight loss Sunday night, with Kobe Bryant scoring 30 points in the Los Angeles Lakers' 106-87 victory.

A few hours after New Jersey fired coach Lawrence Frank, the undermanned Nets had little prayer of keeping up with the defending league champions, who won their sixth straight game.

Falling behind by 27 points in the first half despite clearly playing hard for temporary head coach Tom Barrise, the Nets matched the starts of the 1988-89 Miami Heat and the 1999 Los Angeles Clippers.

"I wish I could explain it," said New Jersey guard Chris Douglas-Roberts, who only lost 10 games in his three collegiate seasons at Memphis. "There's not really anything good out of this. I try to stay positive, but it's extremely hard to stay positive. All the things going on, it's depressing."

New Jersey must beat the Dallas Mavericks back home in the East Rutherford swamp on Wednesday night—perhaps while playing for the club's third coach in three games—to avoid sole possession of an embarrassing NBA record.

"I don't want to be associated with it," said Devin Harris, who scored 16 points for the Nets. "That's one record you don't ever want to be a part of."

Pau Gasol had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who cruised to their 12th win in 14 games. Jordan Farmar added 15 points as the Lakers made 13 of their 25 3-point attempts, including five by Bryant and three for Farmar.

Brook Lopez had 26 points and 12 rebounds for New Jersey, which went scoreless for nearly 4 1/2 minutes in the first quarter while Los Angeles posted 13 straight points to build a 27-10 lead.

Bryant's fourth 3-pointer of the first half put Los Angeles up 57-30 shortly before halftime. The Lakers led by 34 midway through the third quarter, and Bryant left the game with 4:14 left in the third.

"You don't wish that on anybody," Bryant said of the Nets' skid. "That's tough."

The NBA's lowest-scoring and worst-shooting team lived up to its dire statistics, managing just 60 points on 38.7-percent shooting in the first three periods before a strong fourth quarter against Los Angeles' reserves. Although New Jersey consistently tried to match up on defense, the Nets don't have a fraction of the Lakers' talent.

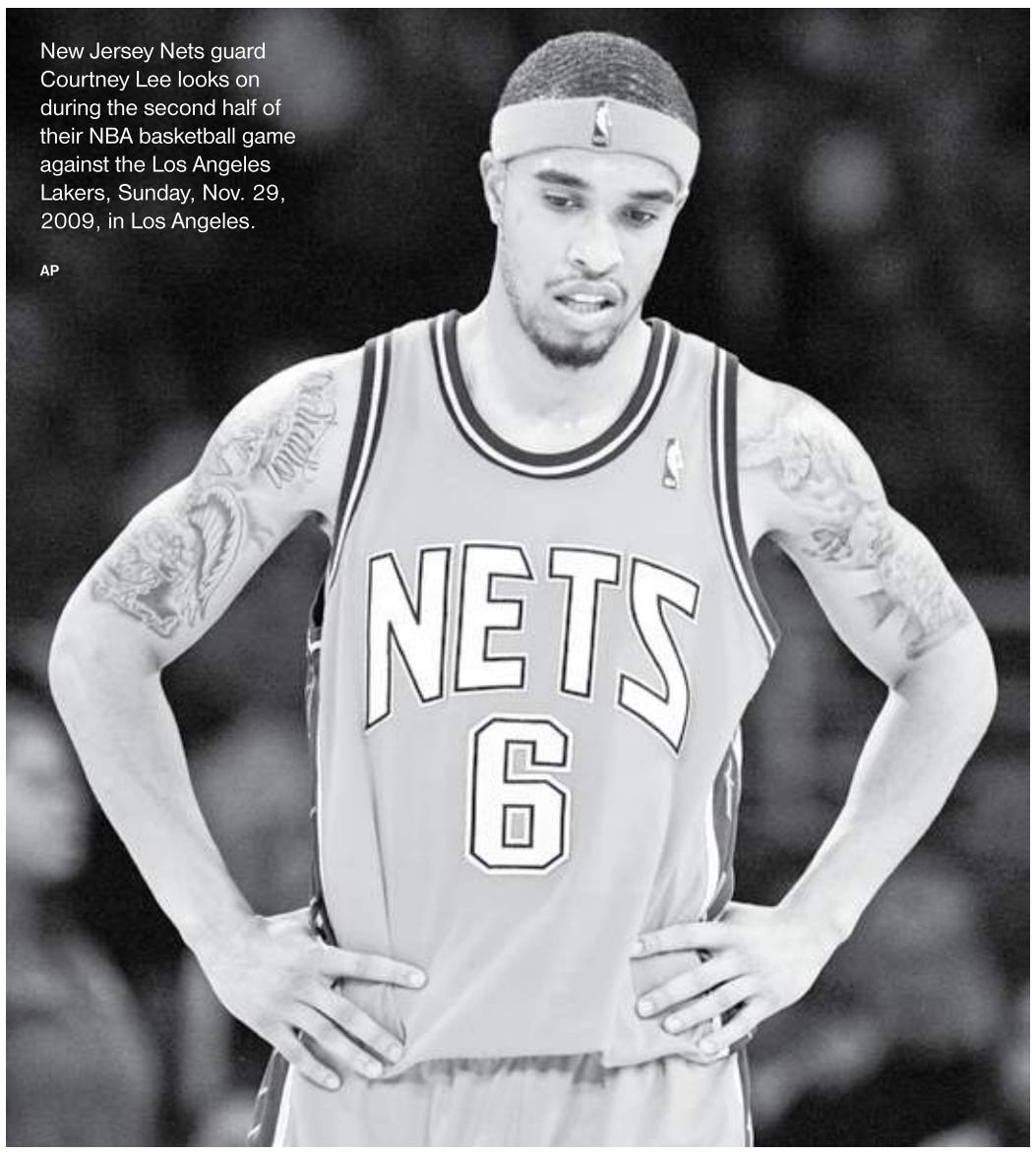
The Lakers' public address announcer recognized the Nets' historic loss after the game, though he had the decency to wait until New Jersey was in its locker room.

The Nets didn't wait until returning from their four-game West Coast trip before dumping Frank, the winningest coach in franchise history and the Eastern Conference's longest-tenured coach.

Although eight Nets already have missed multiple games this season with injuries after New Jersey traded star Vince Carter in the offseason, Frank was held responsible for the woeful start, which included three straight double-digit losses earlier on this trip. Guard Rafer Alston compared the Nets' roster to an awful poker hand, saying Frank was dealt "a pair of 2's, and he tried to fight."

Barrise, Frank's assistant since the start of his tenure in early 2004, could be just a one-game replacement. Nets general manager Kiki Vandeweghe—who attended the game—and assistant John Loyer are considered the top candidates to replace Frank for the rest of the season.

Barrise made the most of perhaps his only chance to be an NBA head coach. The former bench boss at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J., stood for nearly every minute of the game, clapping for his players' successes and stomping his feet in disgust at their many foibles.



New Jersey Nets guard Courtney Lee looks on during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

### Celtics 92, Heat 85

At Miami, Kevin Garnett scored 24 points on 11 of 12 shooting and Ray Allen delivered the big blow with a 3-pointer with 1:38 left as Boston rallied to beat Miami.

Paul Pierce scored 15 points and Kendrick Perkins finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, which opened a four-game trip by winning its fourth straight. Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 11 assists for the Celtics, who wasted an 11-point third-quarter lead and were down by five with 9 minutes remaining.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points for Miami, which has lost six of nine and opens a trip Tuesday in Portland. Michael Beasley added 18 and Jermaine O'Neal finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat.

### Clippers 98, Grizzlies 88

At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 29 points as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat Memphis and give coach Mike Dunleavy his 600th regular-season victory.

Al Thornton scored seven of his 18 points in the final 2:26 for the Clippers, who held the Grizzlies to just 2-for-18 shooting in the fourth quarter. Marcus Camby added 14 points and 14 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 26 points and was 13-for-18 from the field after starting the day tied with Portland's Greg Oden for the league's best field goal percentage at .633.

### Timberwolves 106, Nuggets 100

At Denver, Ryan Gomes scored 27 points to help Minnesota snap a 15-game losing streak.

Corey Brewer and Jonny Flynn each scored 16 points in helping Minnesota rally from 17 points down in the first half and register their first win since a season-opening win against New Jersey.

Carmelo Anthony matched a season-high with 19 points in the first quarter and finished with 32 for Denver.

### Pistons 94, Hawks 88

At Detroit, Ben Wallace had 18 rebounds, including 11 offensive boards, to help undermanned Detroit end a seven-game losing streak.

Rodney Stuckey had 23 points and eight assists for the Pistons, who were again without starters Richard Hamilton (ankle), Tayshaun Prince (back) and Ben Gordon (ankle).

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 21 points, but the Hawks couldn't overcome Detroit's 30-10 advantage in second-chance points.

### Suns 113, Raptors 94

At Toronto, Steve Nash had 20 points and 16 assists and Jason Richardson scored 22 points as Phoenix downed Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Amare Stoudemire had 18 points and Leandro Barbosa added 17 before leaving with a sore left ankle. Channing Frye scored 15 as Phoenix won its 12th straight over Toronto. The Suns have not lost to the Raptors since a 101-94 defeat on Feb. 10, 2004.

Chris Bosh had 30 points and 17 rebounds for Toronto, which has lost three straight.

### Magic 114, Knicks 102

At New York, Rashard Lewis scored 13 of his season-high 26 points in the third quarter as Orlando won its sixth straight on the road.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 16 rebounds for the Eastern Conference leaders, who capped a perfect three-game trip over the holiday weekend that started with an impressive win at division rival Atlanta on Thanksgiving.

Reserve Nate Robinson scored 24 points for the Knicks, who lost their fifth straight.

### Spurs 97, 76ers 89

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 22 points and Tony Parker added 16 as San Antonio won its fifth straight game.

The Spurs extended their longest winning streak since last December, when they climbed back up the standings after a similar slow start last season.

Andre Iguodala had 21 points for the Sixers, who dropped their sixth straight. But the skid is being overshadowed by speculation that Philadelphia may bring Allen Iverson back to the city where he became an NBA star.

### Rockets 100, Thunder 91

At Oklahoma City, Aaron Brooks scored 18 of his 21 points in the second half and Carl Landry had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead Houston.

Houston found a way to rally back from an early 10-point deficit, and Brooks and Landry closed it out. Landry hit the go-ahead free throws with 5:12 remaining, and he and Brooks combined to score 15 of the Rockets' final 20 points. Houston won for the 12th straight time in the series.

Kevin Durant scored 25 points to lead Oklahoma City.

### Kings 112, Hornets 96

At Sacramento, California, Sergio Rodriguez scored a career-high 24 points, and Jason Thompson had 22 points and 14 rebounds as Sacramento won its third straight.

Tyreke Evans had 14 points and Andres Nocioni and Beno Udrih each added 13 for the Kings, who moved to .500 with a surprising 8-8 record.

David West scored 24 points and Emeka Okafor added 20 for the Hornets, who had won four of their previous five.

## *Nets fire coach Frank after 0-16 start*

**EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey** (AP—The winless New Jersey Nets fired coach Lawrence Frank on Sunday, several hours before they matched the worst start in NBA history with their 17th straight loss.

Assistant Tom Barrise temporarily replaced his friend, but the Nets remained 0-for-the-season with a 106-87 loss to the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Though Frank's departure has been widely expected while New Jersey lost every game in the season's first 4Ω weeks, several of Frank's players claimed they were stunned when their energetic coach showed up at their morning team meeting in Los Angeles not wearing his Nets gear.

"It's tough, because he was the hardest worker on the team," center Brook Lopez said. "He's so passionate about what he does. It was a rough situation, and he did a great job of not using our injuries as an excuse. He came in every night and had us prepared."

The Nets won't choose a permanent replacement for Frank until after they return from their four-game road trip Monday. Their next game is Wednesday at home against Dallas, when the Nets must win to avoid NBA ignominy.

Frank was in his sixth full season, the longest-tenured coach in the Eastern Conference and the most successful coach in the Nets' NBA history. But none of those victories came this season, and the team dismissed him with a 225-241 record.

"Lawrence always approached every day with a passion for his craft that was infectious, and his dedication to the game as well as his work ethic are to be both admired and appreciated," Nets president Rod Thorn said in a statement. "I wish he and his family only the best of good fortune in the future."

Frank began his career with a 13-game winning streak, the best coaching start in league history. But he couldn't overcome a losing streak that was even longer, just a game shy of the 17-game skids set by the 1988-89 Miami Heat and the 1999 Los Angeles Clippers.

Plagued by injuries this season, the Nets faced some games where they were missing four starters and suited up the minimum eight players. Still, they played hard and stayed close for most of those games, figuring the wins would come when they started getting some bodies back.

"That's probably as little talent as I've seen anybody put on the floor in the long time with everybody hurt," Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy said. "Yet they were able to fight and stay competitive. The guy's done a great job there."

Despite the losses, Frank was expected to last through the four-game trip out West that ends Sunday, with management wanting to give him time with a regular roster. But they decided it was time for a change after the Nets fell far behind in losses at Denver and Sacramento.

# Colts remain perfect, win AFC South

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts rallied from a 13-point halftime deficit Sunday to clinch the American Football Conference South with a 35-27 win over the Houston Texans.

It was their 20th straight regular-season victory Indianapolis, leaving the Colts is one win short of the New England Patriots' NFL-record 21-game run from 2006-08. The Colts can tie the record if they beat Tennessee at home next weekend.

Manning threw two first-half interceptions, but had a pair of second-half TD passes, including a 4-yarder to Dallas Clark that gave the Colts a 21-20 lead with about nine minutes left.

The loss makes Houston's chances of earning its first playoff berth more dim after losing three straight.

### Titans 20, Cardinals 17

At Nashville, Tennessee, Vince Young hit a leaping Kenny Britt for a 10-yard touchdown as time expired, and Tennessee rallied for its fifth straight victory.

Young won his ninth straight start and improved to 23-11 in his career by driving the Titans 99 yards in the final 2:37. He converted three fourth downs on the drive, two to Britt. He threw for a career-high 387 yards in outdueling Matt Leinart in their first meeting as professionals.

### Ravens 20, Steelers 17, OT

At Baltimore, an interception by rookie Paul Kruger set up a 29-yard field goal by Billy Cundiff with 6:42 left in the extra session, giving Baltimore a victory.

Third-string quarterback Dennis Dixon started because Ben Roethlisberger was sidelined with a concussion and backup Charlie Batch had a broken left wrist. Dixon had thrown only one pass in two seasons before getting the nod against the Ravens.

### Chargers 43, Chiefs 14

At San Diego, LaDainian Tomlinson scored two touchdowns and moved into 10th on the NFL's career rushing list. Philip Rivers threw two touchdown passes to Antonio Gates as the Chargers improved to 8-3.

The Chiefs lost a week after stunning the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in overtime.

### Vikings 36, Bears 10

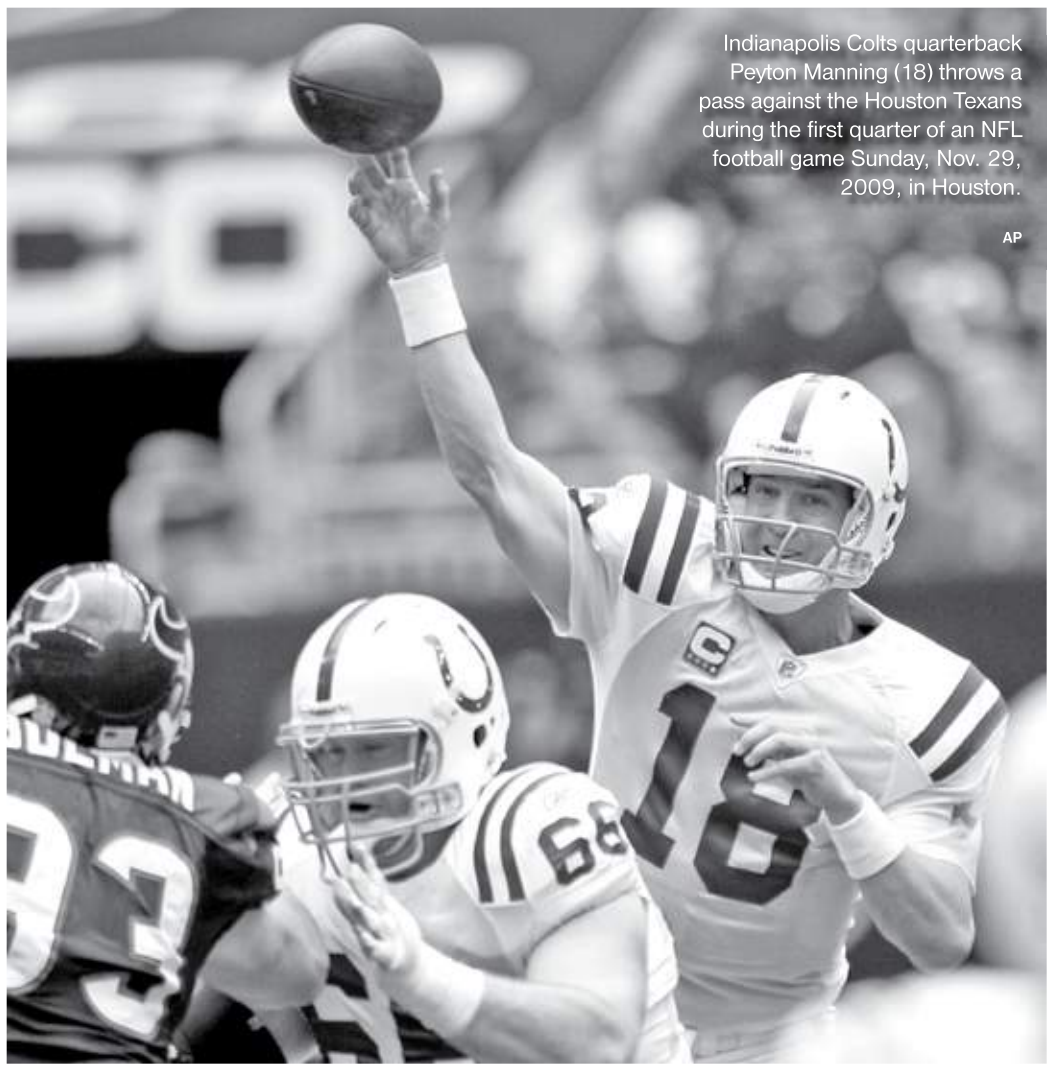
At Minneapolis, Brett Favre passed for a season-high 392 yards and three touchdowns, as the Vikings intercepted Jay Cutler twice.

Favre went 32 for 48 without a turnover and was 10 yards off his career best, throwing touchdowns to Visanthe Shiancoe, Chester Taylor and Percy Harvin, the unflappable rookie who had his best game yet.

### 49ers 20, Jaguars 3

At San Francisco, quarterback Alex Smith threw short touchdown passes to Frank Gore and Vernon Davis in the kind of mistake-free day San Francisco coach Mike Singletary has sought for weeks.

Smith threw for 232 yards with no interceptions and no sacks in his best game since taking over as starter in late October. Joe Nedney kicked field goals of 46 and 27 yards for San Francisco (5-6), which snapped the Jaguars' three-game winning streak and spoiled the Bay Area homecoming of Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio and running back Maurice Jones-Drew.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws a pass against the Houston Texans during the first quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, in Houston.

AP

### Bengals 16, Browns 7

At Cincinnati, newcomer Larry Johnson rushed for 107 yards in Cincinnati's conservative approach as the Bengals completed their first division sweep.

The Bengals rushed for 210 yards, with Johnson—signed less than two weeks ago as insurance—subbing for Cedric Benson, out for the second straight week with an injured hip.

### Eagles 27, Redskins 24

At Philadelphia, David Akers kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1:48 remaining as Philadelphia rallied past Washington.

Akers made all four of his field goals, extending his streak to 16. Asante Samuel had two interceptions and McNabb threw for 260 yards and one TD.

### Falcons 20, Buccaneers 17

At Atlanta, Chris Redman threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Roddy White with 23 seconds remaining as Atlanta pulled out a victory after losing offensive stars Matt Ryan and Michael Turner to injuries.

Connor Barth just missed on a 51-yard try with 2:30 left, giving the Falcons one more chance. Redman, who took over after Ryan injured his right big toe on Atlanta's first series, calmly directed a 59-yard drive that may have saved the season.

### Bills 31, Dolphins 14

At Orchard Park, New York, a 56-yard field goal by Rian Lindell and a 51-yard touchdown catch by Terrell Owens in the final minutes propelled Buffalo.

The win was the first for interim coach Perry Fewell, who replaced the fired Dick Jauron two games ago.

### Jets 17, Panthers 6

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Darrelle Revis got the New York defense in the end zone for the first time this season.

Revis returned one of the Jets' four interceptions 67 yards for a touchdown as New York overcame an injury scare to quarterback Mark Sanchez.

### Seahawks 27, Rams 17

At St. Louis, Justin Forsett set career highs with 130 yards and two touchdowns as the go-ahead score came on the Seahawks' third defensive touchdown of the season.

Olindo Mare added field goals of 29 and 38 yards, tying the franchise record of 16 straight shared by Josh Brown, now with the Rams. The Seahawks had been outscored 161-73 during an 0-5 road start, and kept the Rams down by intercepting Kyle Boller twice and sacking him four times.

# For 3rd time, Woods cancels meeting with police

**WINDERMERE, Fla.** (AP)—Tiger Woods finally gave his side of the story Sunday—on his Web site, not to police—and took the blame for an "embarrassing" car crash that gave him cuts, bruises and public scrutiny like never before.

His statement failed to clear up any questions about the middle-of-the-night accident outside his Isleworth estate in which his wife told police she used a golf club to smash the back windows of the Cadillac SUV to help him out.

"This situation is my fault, and it's obviously embarrassing to my family and me," Woods said on his Web site. "I'm human and I'm not perfect. I will certainly make sure this doesn't happen again."

The statement was posted around 2 p.m. Sunday, about an hour after Woods' attorney told the Florida Highway Patrol that for the third straight day golf's No. 1 player would be unavailable to talk to troopers.

This time, the meeting was not rescheduled.

Even so, Sgt. Kim Montes of FHP said troopers went to Woods' $2.4 million estate anyway, only for attorney Mark NeJame to turn them away. The attorney gave troopers Woods' driver's license, registration and insurance as required by law for such accidents.

Woods said the crash was a private matter, and he intended to keep it that way.

"Although I understand there is curiosity, the many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me are irresponsible," he said. "The only person responsible for the accident is me. My wife, Elin, acted courageously when she saw I was hurt and in trouble. She was the first person to help me. Any other assertion is absolutely false."

Woods is scheduled to compete at his Chevron World Challenge, which starts Thursday in Thousand Oaks, Calif., although his tournament director did not know Woods' status for the tournament—whether he would play or even attend.

Even with his first public comments on the 2:25 a.m. Friday accident, Woods left several questions.

■ Where he was going at that time of the night?

■ How did he lose control of his SUV at such a speed that the air bags didn't deploy?

■ Why were both rear windows of the Cadillac Escalade smashed?

■ If it was a careless mistake, why not speak to state troopers trying to wrap the investigation?

"We have been informed by the Florida Highway Patrol that further discussion with them is both voluntary and optional," Mark Steinberg, his agent at IMG, said in an e-mail. "Although Tiger realizes that there is a great deal of public curiosity, it has been conveyed to FHP that he simply has nothing more to add and wishes to protect the privacy of his family."

Woods' wife turned troopers away from their home in the exclusive gated community outside Orlando on Friday, the day of the accident, because she said he was sleeping. Steinberg called troopers en route to Woods' house on Saturday and postponed the meeting until Sunday.

"We're just continuing our traffic crash investigation," Montes said. "If we have somebody who we feel is pertinent to the investigation, then we will interview them."

She said the 911 caller was interviewed Saturday, and investigators might speak with other people who were at the scene as well. The FHP released the 911 call from an unidentified neighbor on Sunday.

"I have a neighbor, he hit the tree. And we came out here just to see what was going on. I see him and he's laying down," the neighbor told dispatchers without ever identifying the victim as Woods.

Asked if the victim was unconscious, the neighbor replied, "Yes."

Part of the call were inaudible because of a bad connection. At one point, the voice of a woman is heard yelling, "What happened!"

"We're just trying to get the police here right now," the neighbor says to the woman. "We don't know what happened. We're figuring that out right now. I'm on the phone with the police right now."

According to the FHP accident report, Woods had just pulled out of his driveway when he struck a fire hydrant and then a tree. Woods said he had cuts, bruising and "right now I'm a little sore."

Montes said the Woods' car was towed for "safekeeping," and authorities have already documented where the damage is on the vehicle and the point of impact.

The accident came two days after the *National Enquirer* published a story alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York night club hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters.

The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press.

Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred confirmed she was representing Uchitel when she was reached by the AP on Sunday.

"She is with me in L.A.," Allred said later in an e-mail to the AP. "We plan to meet and then we'll decide on the next step, which we do not plan to announce to the press."

Uchitel arrived at Los Angeles International Airport late Sunday morning, where she was met by Allred and escorted out of the baggage claim area and into a black car. Uchitel did not speak to reporters except to ask that she be left alone.

Aside from occasional criticism of his temper inside the ropes, Woods has kept himself out of the news beyond his sport. In an October posting on his Facebook account, Woods wrote, "I'm asked why people don't often see me and Elin in gossip magazines or tabloids. I think we've avoided a lot of media attention because we're kind of boring. ..."

## IT&E

*From Page 28*

headband could change his and Diamond's misfortunes that night.

Esdrelon and Badong Camacho wore headbands at the start of the game, but played without them in the fourth quarter, hoping to turn the tables around for Diamond. The fourth quarter began with IT&E ahead, 69-42, and Diamond had an even worse nightmare in the payoff canto, as it fell behind by as much as 38 points.

Bonbon Cadagat made good use of his fancy moves, as he often played decoy to set up his teammates for easy shots. Peter Mendiola was mostly the recipient of those passes, as he scored three straight baskets underneath at one point in the third to lead IT&E's breakaway. Mendiola finished with a game-high 29 points.

IT&E led by only 12 at halftime, 42-30, when Mendiola and Jomary Tumaquip combined for 14 points in the third to widen the gap further. The two outscored the entire Diamond crew, which drilled only 12 markers in that canto.

In the first open division game, Noni Saipan picked up where it left off to break into the win column. Noni Saipan and NCIC played on Saturday, but their match was halted by rain at halftime with the former ahead, 55-39.

NCIC never recovered when the match resumed to drop to a 0-3 slate. Noni improved to a 1-2 mark.

In the lone masters game, Cool Water drew double figures from five players to outgun Wushin and snap its three-game losing streak.

Joseph Galulu paced Cool Water with 23 points, Martin Moreno added 21, Bernard Montano fired 20, and Dindo Pablo and Gilbert Espinosa tallied 16 and 15, respectively.

### Masters

**Cool Water 106** – Galulu 23, Moreno 21, Montano 20, Pablo 16, Espino 15, Garcia 4, Darag 3, Valencia 2.

**Wushin Corp. 97** – Ebuen 26, Tobias 19, Garon 16, Trajano 12, Alvarez 9, Leong 7, Samson 4, De Jesus 4.

**Scoring by quarters**: 18-26, 49-48, 77-73, 106-97.

### Open

**Noni Saipan 102** – Tamayo 24, Basila 21, De Vero 18, Aquino 8, Castro 8, Abuel 7, Galvez 6, Jugos 3, Pantaleon 3, Demapan 2, Lerio 2.

**NCIC 92** – Tabora 26, Abenoja 18, Galarse 11, Lansang 11, Detera 8, Taylor 6, Javier 5, Javier 4, Manangan 3.

**Scoring by quarters**: 24-17, 55-39, 81-61, 102-92.

**IT&E 97** – Mendiola 29, Cadagat 19, Lauron 10, Peredo 9, Moises 9, Tumaquip 8, Lansang 7, Itaas 4, Johnson 2.

**Diamond 60** – Barbo 16, Mercurio 9, Esdrelon 8, Bicera 7, Capalad 6, Camacho 5, Guiab 4, J. Montano 3, Artates 2, Barrios 2, W. Capalad 2,

**Scoring by quarters**: 23-13, 42-30, 69-42, 97-60.

## AIR

*From Page 28*

Noli Santos and Cordero, 21-18, 22-20, in the men's BB doubles, and tie the count at 1-all. Air Benders won four of the last five games to retain the No. 1 spot.

Delivering the victories for Air Benders were the tandems of Robert Reyes and Elma Labuson (mixed AB), Ingrid Sanchez and Lea Estinopo (women's BB), Sanchez and Riza Yutuc (women's BC), and Santos and Yutuc (mixed BC).

Joel Algenio and Luis Camacho gave the Bombers their other win as the duo prevailed over Carlo Dotimas and Manatsu Omori in the men's CC division.

The Bombers dropped from second to third place with their 11-10 record.

### Katipuneros 5, Smashers 2

In the Katipuneros-Smashers pairing, the Macoi Aguda-captained won in the men's AB, BB, women's BB, men's CC, and mixed BC to grab second place in the team standings.

Katipuneros now hold a 13-8 mark after getting wins from the tandems of Aguda and Vic Reyes, Reyes and Mario Diola, Loida Ito and Malou Malasarte, Rob Harrell and Puy Macario, and Diola and Elna Curate.

Smashers' two victories were courtesy of Ferdie Arago and Anna Alvarez and Lucelle Lampera and Annette Ta in the mixed AB and women's BC dubles, respectively.

The Smashers are two notches behind Katipuneros as the former hold a 10-11 slate for fourth place.

### Star Aces 5, Sizzlers 2

Star Aces bounced back from back-to-back losses when they cool downed the Sizzlers, 5-2.

Team captain Hapi Gabriel teamed up with James Digno in the men's AB doubles to slip past the Sizzlers' Gary Bandoja and Ariel Mariano, 21-16, 19-21, 21-19.

Digno won his second match when he joined forces with Jorge Olanda to beat the pair of Mariano and Ekeziel Macario, 21-10, 21-11.

Also winning their matches for Star Aces were Roding Domingo and Rodwealth Espana (men's CC), Gabriel and Cristy Villaflore (mixed AB), and Olanda and Jenine Savellano (mixed BC).

With the victory, the Star Aces moved out of the cellar and now have an 8-13 record, two wins ahead of the Sizzlers (6-15), which dropped to the bottom of the team standings.

## SONICS

*From Page 28*

back-to-back matches on the same day was simply too much for the Sonics, as they lost steam in the afternoon game and bowed to Northern All-Stars, 40-46. The All-Stars eventually won the 16-and-under title after a 31-25 victory over the Dededo Dragons in the finals on Sunday, while the Sonics settled for third place.

Sonics coach Jesse Tudela said their playoff game against the All-Stars was a tight match from start to finish.

The visitors had a good chance to steal the win, but missed free throws and foul trouble foiled the Sonics' finals bid. Tudela's wards went 10-for-22 from the foul line and had their frontliners in foul trouble in the second half. Tristan Ecalnea fouled out in the last three minutes of the game when the Sonics were behind by only three points.

"We eventually lost to the Northern All-Stars who had players from various high school varsity team such as Simon Sanchez High School and John F. Kennedy High School. They also had two 6'2" players who are versatile and agile. However, my boys kept up with them from the start to finish," Tudela said.

"I am proud of my boys for showing a lot of heart, teamwork, and for not backing down considering we were a short team. I know they can beat any team on any given night but tonight's (Saturday) game was not the night. I told them to remember that this was a tournament where a team has to show composure and stamina when playing twice in one day. It was hard on their young body but that was how the tournament committee designed it," he said.

Tudela added losing in the semifinals will not cause their morale to go down, as the Sonics will work harder next time to have a better result.

"I know the boys tried their best but fell short. This will be a learning experience and I hope that next year's team will do better because majority are returning and we will have additional faces with lots of talents and potential. I look forward to next year's tournament because my boys promised to work harder and to make sure that Guam teams remember the Sonics," Tudela said.

The Sonics are composed of Tristan Ecalnea, Adrian Palacios, Tim Sula, John Darag, Angelo Salas, Nicko Salem, Herman Del Rosario, Bryl Alegre, and Dan Bicera.

The team's trip was made possible through the generous donations of private and public companies and individuals.

"We would like to thank our donors, namely Rep. Ed Salas, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Brand Clothing, Grand Market, Saipan Southern High School, National Office Supply, and the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' board of Directors," Tudela said.

"I would also like to thank the man behind the scenes, my assistant coach Omar Ajoste for a job well done in training, developing, and taking care of the players for the last few months. I know my boys learned a lot from Omar. Thank you too to the players' parents for entrusting me to coach and care for their son during our stay in Guam. My boys were disciplined and at their best behavior," the Sonics coach said, adding the Barrigada Basketball Club to the thank you list for hosting and inviting the Sonics to the youth caging.

## THE CRANK

*From Page 28*

belt's meio-pesado (medium-heavyweight class), besting stablemate Hadrian Torres and Strapple North's Kota Matsunaga.

Camacho was first pitted against the Japanese and lost. He then challenged Torres and won to earn a rematch against Matsunaga. In the finals, Camacho settled an old score with Matsunaga en route to a gold-medal win.

Over 500 fighters participated in the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation of Japan-organized event that took place on Saturday and Sunday. The two-day tournament had competitions in five adult belts (blue, white, purple, brown, black) and four junior weight classes, and two female divisions. Adult belts were also classified into 10 weight classes.

Meanwhile, Camacho will return to Saipan with his gold medal on Thursday and will stay here for a few months after spending most of year in the mainland to hone his mixed martial arts skills and compete in various tournaments.

After savoring his victory in Japan, Camacho will appear in Trench Warz 11's Redemption: Guam vs. Saipan 2 as a guest referee. Redemption is set for Dec. 18 at the Royal Taga Hall and will feature two main event bouts.

The first one will have Trench Tech's Jason "The Rush" Tarkong dueling Guam's Gil "The Guamaniac" Melo, while the second main event will pit Trench Tech's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse against Guam's Alex "Most Hated" Castro.

For more information about Trench Tech, contact Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 13 | 4 | .765 | – |
| Toronto | 7 | 11 | .389 | 6 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 12 | .294 | 8 |
| New York | 3 | 14 | .176 | 10 |
| New Jersey | 0 | 17 | .000 | 13 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 14 | 4 | .778 | – |
| Atlanta | 12 | 5 | .706 | 1 1/2 |
| Miami | 9 | 7 | .563 | 4 |
| Charlotte | 7 | 9 | .438 | 6 |
| Washington | 5 | 10 | .333 | 7 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 12 | 5 | .706 | – |
| Milwaukee | 8 | 7 | .533 | 3 |
| Chicago | 6 | 8 | .429 | 4 1/2 |
| Indiana | 6 | 8 | .429 | 4 1/2 |
| Detroit | 6 | 11 | .353 | 6 |

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 12 | 5 | .706 | – |
| San Antonio | 9 | 6 | .600 | 2 |
| Houston | 9 | 8 | .529 | 3 |
| New Orleans | 7 | 10 | .412 | 5 |
| Memphis | 6 | 11 | .353 | 6 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 12 | 5 | .706 | – |
| Portland | 12 | 7 | .632 | 1 |
| Utah | 9 | 7 | .563 | 2 1/2 |
| Oklahoma City | 9 | 8 | .529 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 15 | .118 | 10 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phoenix | 14 | 3 | .824 | – |
| L.A. Lakers | 13 | 3 | .813 | 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 8 | 8 | .500 | 5 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 8 | 10 | .444 | 6 1/2 |
| Golden State | 5 | 10 | .333 | 8 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Phoenix 113, Toronto 94
Detroit 94, Atlanta 88
L.A. Clippers 98, Memphis 88
Orlando 114, New York 102
Boston 92, Miami 85
Houston 100, Oklahoma City 91
San Antonio 97, Philadelphia 89
Minnesota 106, Denver 100
Sacramento 112, New Orleans 96
L.A. Lakers 106, New Jersey 87

### NBA LEADERS

#### SCORING

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anthony, DEN | 16 | 167 | 148 | 495 | 30.9 |
| Bryant, LAL | 15 | 168 | 99 | 442 | 29.5 |
| James, CLE | 17 | 170 | 130 | 496 | 29.2 |
| Durant, OKC | 16 | 150 | 124 | 440 | 27.5 |
| Wade, MIA | 15 | 131 | 127 | 407 | 27.1 |
| Nowitzki, DAL | 17 | 158 | 133 | 461 | 27.1 |
| Bosh, TOR | 17 | 139 | 143 | 427 | 25.1 |
| Granger, IND | 13 | 102 | 76 | 322 | 24.8 |
| Ellis, GOL | 15 | 141 | 55 | 346 | 23.1 |
| Jennings, MIL | 15 | 123 | 53 | 334 | 22.3 |
| Johnson, ATL | 16 | 132 | 58 | 347 | 21.7 |
| Gay, MEM | 16 | 129 | 67 | 337 | 21.1 |
| Harrington, NYK | 16 | 114 | 71 | 325 | 20.3 |
| Kaman, LAC | 17 | 139 | 65 | 343 | 20.2 |
| Arenas, WAS | 15 | 103 | 73 | 302 | 20.1 |
| Pierce, BOS | 16 | 105 | 79 | 320 | 20.0 |
| Boozer, UTA | 16 | 128 | 62 | 318 | 19.9 |
| Stoudemire, PHX | 16 | 119 | 80 | 318 | 19.9 |
| Gordon, DET | 15 | 102 | 69 | 297 | 19.8 |
| Roy, POR | 19 | 128 | 96 | 375 | 19.7 |

#### FG PERCENTAGE

| | FG | FGA | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gasol, MEM | 88 | 139 | .633 |
| Oden, POR | 88 | 139 | .633 |
| Howard, ORL | 102 | 162 | .630 |
| Perkins, BOS | 70 | 113 | .619 |
| Hilario, DEN | 87 | 143 | .608 |
| Paul, NOR | 85 | 143 | .594 |
| Stoudemire, PHX | 119 | 207 | .575 |
| Bynum, LAL | 100 | 175 | .571 |
| O'Neal, MIA | 85 | 150 | .567 |
| Bogut, MIL | 65 | 115 | .565 |

#### REBOUNDS

| | G | OFF | DEF | TOT | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Howard, ORL | 17 | 64 | 144 | 208 | 12.2 |
| Bosh, TOR | 17 | 61 | 142 | 203 | 11.9 |
| Wallace, CHA | 16 | 37 | 152 | 189 | 11.8 |
| Noah, CHI | 14 | 56 | 108 | 164 | 11.7 |
| Duncan, SAN | 12 | 34 | 101 | 135 | 11.3 |
| Gasol, MEM | 16 | 48 | 124 | 172 | 10.8 |
| Boozer, UTA | 16 | 34 | 136 | 170 | 10.6 |
| Bynum, LAL | 13 | 44 | 94 | 138 | 10.6 |
| Haywood, WAS | 15 | 65 | 91 | 156 | 10.4 |
| Camby, LAC | 17 | 36 | 133 | 169 | 9.9 |

#### ASSISTS

| | G | AST | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nash, PHX | 16 | 189 | 11.8 |
| Williams, UTA | 14 | 139 | 9.9 |
| Paul, NOR | 10 | 92 | 9.2 |
| Kidd, DAL | 17 | 151 | 8.9 |
| Rondo, BOS | 16 | 142 | 8.9 |
| James, CLE | 17 | 136 | 8.0 |
| B. Davis, LAC | 17 | 121 | 7.1 |
| Westbrook, OKC | 16 | 110 | 6.9 |
| Calderon, TOR | 17 | 109 | 6.4 |
| Arenas, WAS | 15 | 94 | 6.3 |

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 290 | 164 |
| Miami | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 256 | 275 |
| N.Y. Jets | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 230 | 195 |
| Buffalo | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 186 | 242 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Indianapolis | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 304 | 184 |
| Jacksonville | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 202 | 255 |
| Tennessee | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 229 | 289 |
| Houston | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 259 | 243 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 231 | 174 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 257 | 188 |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 248 | 204 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 122 | 279 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Diego | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 312 | 219 |
| Denver | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 196 | 189 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 183 | 282 |
| Oakland | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 115 | 258 |

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**East**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 255 | 182 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 293 | 228 |
| N.Y. Giants | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 272 | 261 |
| Washington | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 170 | 205 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 369 | 204 |
| Atlanta | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 272 | 245 |
| Carolina | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 199 | 256 |
| Tampa Bay | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 181 | 314 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 10 | 1 | 0 | .909 | 342 | 203 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 296 | 215 |
| Chicago | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 216 | 261 |
| Detroit | 2 | 9 | 0 | .182 | 193 | 335 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 267 | 217 |
| San Francisco | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 228 | 213 |
| Seattle | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 223 | 250 |
| St. Louis | 1 | 10 | 0 | .091 | 130 | 297 |

**x-clinched division**

**Yesterday's Games**

Buffalo 31, Miami 14
N.Y. Jets 17, Carolina 6
Seattle 27, St. Louis 17
Atlanta 20, Tampa Bay 17
Indianapolis 35, Houston 27
Cincinnati 16, Cleveland 7
Philadelphia 27, Washington 24
San Diego 43, Kansas City 14
San Francisco 20, Jacksonville 3
Tennessee 20, Arizona 17
Minnesota 36, Chicago 10
Baltimore 20, Pittsburgh 17, OT

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

# Miller Lite/Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League

**Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

E&E players and supporters receive their runner-up trophy during the awards ceremony.

Regular season MVP Bonbon Tamayo, left, of Jaypers receives his trophy from one of the league's coordinators Jojo Garon.

The Mekeni Archers flash the No. 1 sign after beating E&E in their title match in the 2nd Annual Miller Lite/Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court early last month.

Finals MVP Robert Guiang of the Archers hoists his trophy.

Most Improved Player Victor Mallari of DL Cooking Gas shows off his trophy.

E&E's Dennis Morales goes for a layup against Mekeni Archers' Rommel Usi.

Mythical Team members, from left, Alex Ocampo, Bonbon Tamayo, Ed Cosino, Noel David, and J.R. Barrios.

E&E's Danny Bicera, left, and Mekeni Archers' Rommel Quinitip battle for the loose ball.

Mekeni Archers' Noel David goes for a layup against an E&E defender.

Mekeni Archers' Rommel Quinitip, right, pulls up for a jumper against E&E's Alex Ocampo.

**Nets match worst start with loss to Lakers**

The New Jersey Nets matched the worst start to an NBA season with their 17th straight loss Sunday night, with Kobe Bryant scoring 30 points in the Los Angeles Lakers' 106-87 victory.

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Colts remain perfect, win AFC South**

Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts rallied from a 13-point halftime deficit Sunday to clinch the American Football Conference South with a 35-27 win over the Houston Texans.

25

# IT&E routs Diamond; Noni, Cool Water win

IT&E's Quincy Johnson, left, challenges the defense of Diamond Ali'i's Elmer Esdrelon during their game in the PILCOWA caging on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

What was expected as a tight match turned out to be a piece of cake for IT&E, which walloped defending champion Diamond Ali'i, 97-60, during their game in the open division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Sunday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Diamond went to Sunday's match undefeated, but was beaten black and blue in its last game in the first round of the regular season, as IT&E can't seem do anything wrong en route to the big 37-point win.

Two more games were played on Sunday with Noni Saipan downing New City International Construction, 102-92, and Cool Water thumping Wushin Corp., 106-97, in the masters division.

The win ended Noni Saipan's two-game losing streak, while Cool Water also moved out of slump, notching its first win in four matches.

The victory was IT&E's second in as many games, leaving the team with a good chance of sweeping the first round and booting out Diamond from the top spot in the team standings.

IT&E controlled the game from start to finish and punished its foe with a solid defense that left only one Diamond player scoring in double figures. Darwin Barbo drilled 16 markers, but had to bleed for his points, as IT&E defenders clobbered him every time he went inside the paint.

Elmer Esdrelon, who tallied 20-plus points in Diamond's last two wins, was held to nine markers and buried only two field goals. He made more airballs than field goals and not even the removal of his

See IT&E on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Manatsu Omori plays for the Air Benders, which lead the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after Friday's games at the REM Centre.

# Air Benders stay on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Air Benders kept the No. 1 spot following their third win in the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament on Friday at the REM Centre.

Air Benders were pitted against the TNT Bombers in their third game and notched a 5-2 triumph to improve to 15-6 record.

Saul Gargalo and Aries Cordero started the ball rolling for Air Benders as they edged the Bombers Edwin Montoya and Jojo Savellano in three sets in the men's AB doubles, 18-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Savellano then teamed up with Roger Vales to thwart

See AIR on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, seen here hitting his foe during an MMA event in the mainland early this year, won a gold medal in a tournament in Japan last weekend.

# 'The Crank' strike gold in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As promised, CNMI bet "The Crank" Camacho brought home a gold medal from the Tokyo International Jiu-Jitsu Open Championship 2009 held over the weekend at the Tokyo Budoh-Kan, Ayase, Adachi-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Camacho of Purebred Lloyd Irvin's topped the adult blue

See THE CRANK on Page 26

# Sonics save third place in Guam caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern Sonics made it into the semifinals of the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament before dropping to third place after Saturday's games at the Guam sports complex gym.

The Sonics trounced host Barrigada Crusaders, 51-29, on Saturday morning to advance to the semifinals. However, playing

See SONICS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Southern Sonics pose for a group photo before their game in the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament in Guam last week.